THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU • MONDAY • JUNE 19, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

57 DIE IN UP HOSPITAL AMID HEATWAVE

At least 57 people admitted at Ballia District Hospital have died in the past four days. A two-member committee of the health department is looking into the cause of deaths, officials said. (In pic) family members bring a patient to hospital during heatwave conditions in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. | PTI

OM SHRI GURUBASAVALINGAYA NAMAHA

HIREMATH SAMSTHAN VIDYAPEETH TRUST(R), BHALKI

Sri Channabasaveshwar Gurukul (Resi.)
PU Science College, Kardyal - 585 413

TQ. BHALKI - DIST. BIDAR - KARNATAKA

GURUKUL STUDENTS MAKES A BIG SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT IN NEET RESULT-2023

OVER 200 STUDENTS OBTAINED ELIGIBILITY RANK FOR MBBS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEET TOPPERS

VINITA MARKS 657 | MANASAVINI MARKS 645 | PRAKRUTI MARKS 624 | SANTOSH MARKS 620 | PRAJWAL MARKS 610 | SOHAN MARKS 605 | SIDDANTH MARKS 603 | SUSHILKUMAR MARKS 600

MANISH MARKS 591 | RUSHIKESH MARKS 585 | CHETAN MARKS 581 | SIDRAMESH MARKS 576 | GNYANESHWAR MARKS 576 | PRASAD MARKS 575 | GAJANAND MARKS 573 | MALIKARJUN MARKS 572 | NAGARAJ MARKS 572 | MAGI VISHVATEJ MARKS 571 | SIDDLING MARKS 571 | PRAKASH MARKS 571 | RAHUL MARKS 571 | SHIVSHANKAR MARKS 569 | PRIYANKA MARKS 566

SHREEMA MARKS 564 | SHREYASH MARKS 564 | TUKARAM MARKS 563 | SRUJWAL MARKS 563 | SHRUTI MARKS 562 | VISHWANATH MARKS 558 | NIKHITA MARKS 555 | VISHNUKANT MARKS 555 | ANUSHREE MARKS 554 | GAYATRI MARKS 554 | ARJUN MARKS 554 | SANDHYA MARKS 552 | VACHANAMBIKA MARKS 552 | BHOOMIKA MARKS 550 | AKASH MARKS 550

ANUPRIYA MARKS 548 | SRIGANGA MARKS 547 | SHIVADARSHAN MARKS 546 | ANAGHA MARKS 546 | CHAITANYA MARKS 541 | CHAITRA MARKS 541 | SHILPA MARKS 537 | RAHUL MARKS 534 | NAGESHWARI MARKS 534 | SHRAVAN MARKS 534 | SUPRIT MARKS 531 | DNYANESHWAR MARKS 530 | SHIVAPRASAD MARKS 530 | SACHIN MARKS 530 | SHEKHAR MARKS 529

SHRUSTI MARKS 529 | SWAPNIL MARKS 529 | DEEPIKA MARKS 528 | KASHINATH MARKS 527 | MAHADEVI MARKS 523 | AKANKSHA MARKS 522 | SHIVA MARKS 522 | PANKAJ MARKS 522 | CHANNAVEER MARKS 521 | SANGMESH MARKS 518 | RAKSHITA MARKS 517 | SUGANDHA MARKS 513 | MAHESH MARKS 510 | HARI OM MARKS 510 | NAND KUMAR MARKS 509

VINAYAK MARKS 508 | POOJA MARKS 508 | PRAJVAL MARKS 508 | PRATHAMESH MARKS 506 | RADHIKA MARKS 506 | SUMERA MUSKAAN MARKS 506 | SOUMYA MARKS 506 | GANESH MARKS 505 | KEDARNATH MARKS 505 | SHRUSTI MARKS 503 | SHIVKUMAR MARKS 503 | BHAVANI MARKS 503 | SIDRAM MARKS 501 | RADHIKA MARKS 500 | DIKSHA MARKS 500 | D VAISHNAVI MARKS 500 | ANJANAYYA MARKS 495

MAHESH MARKS 494 | VAISHNAVI MARKS 493 | PRAJWAL MARKS 493 | NAGARAJ MARKS 492 | YOGITA MARKS 491 | VAISHNAVI MARKS 487 | AJIT MARKS 486 | PRAGATI MARKS 485 | DIVYA MARKS 484 | MAMTA MARKS 484 | RAMYA MARKS 484 | GURUKIRAN MARKS 483 | SAYED FAIZAN MARKS 482 | SUMEET MARKS 480 | AMULYA JAGATE MARKS 480 | BASAVAKIRAN MARKS 480 | VIJAYKUMAR MARKS 480

CONGRATULATIONS - FABULOUS PERFORMERS IN KCET 2023

VINAY
64TH RANK
ENGINEERING

PRIYANKA 90TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SANTOSH 140TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SHWETA 212TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | PRIYANKA 460TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | PRAKURTI 497TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | VISHAL 564TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SHRUTI 585TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SHIVSHANKER 623RD RANK VET. SCIENCE

SHIVAKUMAR 703RD RANK VET. SCIENCE | DINESH 712TH RANK ENGINEERING | ADITYA 797TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SUSHILKUMAR 894TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | BHARAT REDDY 926TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | PRASHANT 949TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | PRAJWAL 976TH RANK VET. SCIENCE | SIDDANT 997TH RANK VET. SCIENCE

OVER 200 STUDENTS SECURED BELOW 5000 STATE RANK FOR BNYS & VETERNARY SCIENCE

ADMISSION OPEN FOR LONG TERM NEET 2023-2024

CONTACT : 8147740402 - 7353304503 - Website: www.cbgurukul.in

CANARA BANK

Hunsur Branch, No. 3607/8, Opp Taluk Office, Bangalore-Mysore Bye Pass Road, Hunsur, Mysore

POSSESSION NOTICE {Under The Act Rule 8(1)}

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank under securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated as mentioned below, calling upon the Borrowers/ Owners/Mortgagor/Guarantors as mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice against their name, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, guarantors & mortgagors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act. read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules as per Possession Notice dated mentioned below. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor in particular and the public general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of Canara Bank, below mentioned branch for an amount as mentioned below along future interest and other charges thereon.

Borrower : Smt. Kempamma W/o Late Huchaiah, Property No. 3019/1, CH-1, 3019/1A, CH-1/A, Tonachikoppalu, Rama Mandira Road, CR Mohalla, Mysore - 570023. **Demand Notice Dated : 05-04-2023, Possession Notice Date : 14-06-2023 and Outstanding Amount Rs. 20,58,526.72** (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Seventy Two Only) with further cost and charges, **Description of the Property :** All that piece and parcel of House Property No. 3019/1 CH-1, 3019/1A CH-1/A, Situated at Rama Mandira Road, T.K. Layout, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore - 570023, Measuring East to West : 14½ feet, North to South : 47.00 feet. **Bounded on : East by :** Road, **West by :** House of Kalaiah, **North by :** House of Amaase Javarappa, **South by :** Road.

Date : 14.06.2023 **Sd/- Authorized officer,**
Place : Hunsur **Canara Bank, Hunsur, Mysore**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender No. 93235434,& 5424A due date: 10/07/2023.

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager(stores) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division invites E- tenders for the supply of under mentioned stores.

Tender No : 93235434

Description of stores : Item No - 1 : Supply and installation (construction) of OSOP sale out let /kiosks 6 NOS as per the given detailed specification and drawing. A steel stool size of 18" width 16" wooden top should be supplied along with the each KIOSKS .The size of the KIOSKS should be 6ftX 10ft and height is standardized as 7ft inside overall with specified material. The station included in cluster II are CHIRAYINKEEZHU, VARKALA, KOLLAM, KARUNAGAPALLY, CHENGANNUR AND THIRUVALLA Railway stations and KIOSKS should be set up at the specified location identified by the railway administration. The detailed specification is enclosed. The cost of the work inclusive of supply construction and installation of static stall. The details of revised specifications and design of 2 nos of Side Banners and 1 Front Banner are to be adhered as per the given conditions. Additional design and manual for provision of Shutter and Rigid locking system for OSOP static stall/Kiosk has to be provided as per documents attached. Warranty as per IRS conditions of Contract or as specification, whichever is higher. **Quantity: 6 Nos. Due Date: 10.07.2023**

Item No - 2 : OSOP Kiosk (Furniture (wooden))783011390017 (Supply)-Supply and installation (construction)of OSOP sale out let /kiosks as per the given detailed specification and drawing. A steel stool size of 18" width 16" wooden top should be supplied along with the each KIOSKS .The size of the KIOSKS should be 6ftx 10ft and height is standardized as 7ft inside overall with specified material. The station included in cluster IV are Chalakudy, Irinjalakuda, Pudukkad, Thrissur, Punkunnam, WadakkanChery and Guruvayoor Railway stations and KIOSKS should be set up at the specified location identified by the railway administration. The detailed specification is enclosed. The cost of the work inclusive of supply construction and installation of static stall. The details of revised specifications and design of 2 nos of Side Banners and 1 Front Banner are to be adhered as per the given conditions. Additional design and manual for provision of Shutter and Rigid locking system for OSOP static stall/Kiosk has to be provided as per documents attached. Warranty as per IRS conditions of Contract or as specification, whichever is higher. **Quantity: 7 Nos. Due Date: 10.07.2023**

Tender No : 93235424A

Description of stores : Item No - 3 : Supply, Installation & Commissioning 01 number Pit less Electronic 1 NOS In-motion Weigh Bridge, Capacity-140MT at ALUVA RAILWAY STATION of THIRUVANTHAPURAM DIVISION as per RDSO latest specification No. WD-29- Misc-19(Rev.-1)(or latest) including CAMC for the next 6 (six) year after the expiry of warranty period. Work also Includes pre-cast foundation work and concomitant accessories as per Annexure A. Before commissioning firm has to get material pre-inspected by nominated agency. **Quantity: 1 No. CAMC – 6 Yrs.; Due Date: 10.07.2023**

Tender closing and opening date and time: 10.07.2023 at 14.30 Hrs.

For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in > E-Tender > Stores > View tenders.** Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

(A Government of India Enterprise)
Southern Region Transmission System-II,RHQ Singanayakanahalli, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru-560064

PUBLIC NOTICE

Construction of buildings / structures, burning of agricultural waste/ growing tall trees/ setting up brick kilns, factories, installation of crusher units & quarries/blasting, flying kites / throwing stones, vandalizing properties are not permitted in & around and under existing Extra High Voltage Transmission Line as per Safety Regulations. Also such activities are dangerous to the human safety and may lead to untoward incidents resulting in loss of human lives/property. Furthermore, the above activities may cause tripping of the transmission lines / power outages, which may lead to huge power failures or even massive Grid failures, resulting insignificant direct & in-direct loss of revenue to the District/State/Nation due to production loss.

Since Transmission Lines are charged at an Extra High Voltage at the level of 230/400/500/765/800 Kilo Volts, maintaining a safe electrical corridor (Right of Way) for Safety purpose is of paramount importance. If any accident / loss / damage to any property including POWERGRID lines, because of gross negligence of the public, concerned party is responsible for the same and any loss / damage shall be compensated by the concerned party only.

In case of any query regarding the above matter, please contact the following numbers. **Karnataka: 080-23093700, Kerala:0471-2754777, Tamil Nadu: 044-28342875 / 28342876, Puducherry: 0413-2661920 / 2665060.**

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सुरक्षा विनियमों के अनुसार मौजूदा अतिरिक्त उच्च वोल्टेज वाले ट्रांसमिशन लाइन के नीचे तथा आसपास भवनों / संरचनाओं का निर्माण, कृषि अपशिष्ट को जलाने/ऊंचे पेड़ उगाने / ईंट भट्टे, कारखाने स्थापित करने / क्रशिंग इकाइयों और खदानों की स्थापना / ब्लास्टिंग, पतंग उड़ाने / पत्थर फेंकने, उपद्रव कर संपत्तियों को नुकसान पहुंचाने की अनुमति नहीं है। ऐसी गतिविधियां मानव सुरक्षा के लिए भी खतरनाक हैं और इससे अप्रिय घटनाएं हो सकती हैं जिसके परिणामस्वरूप मानव जीवन / संपत्ति का नुकसान हो सकता है। इसके अलावा, उपरोक्त गतिविधियों के कारण पारेषण लाइनों / बिजली की कटौती हो सकती है, जिससे बड़े स्तर पर बिजली आपूर्ति में बाधा या यहां तक कि बड़े पैमाने पर ग्रिड में खराबी आ सकती है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादन हानि की वजह से जिला / राज्य / राष्ट्र को राजस्व का अत्यधिक प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष नुकसान हो सकता है।

चूंकि ट्रांसमिशन लाइनों को 230 / 400 / 500/765 / 800 किलो वोल्ट के स्तर पर एक अतिरिक्त उच्च वोल्टेज पर चार्ज किया जाता है और सुरक्षा उद्देश्य के लिए एक सुरक्षित विद्युत गलियारा (राईट ऑफ वे) बनाए रखना सर्वोपरि है। यदि जनता की घोर लापरवाही के कारण पावरग्रिड लाइनों सहित किसी भी संपत्ति को कोई दुर्घटना / हानि / क्षति होती है, तो संबंधित पक्ष इसके लिए जिम्मेदार होगा और किसी भी नुकसान / क्षति की भरपाई संबंधित पक्ष द्वारा ही की जाएगी।

उपरोक्त मामलों के संबंध में किसी भी पूछताछ के लिए, कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबरों पर संपर्क करें: **कर्नाटक: 080-23093700, केरल: 0471-2754777, तमिलनाडु: 044-28342875/28342876, पुडुचेरी: 0413-2661920 / 2665060 ।**

SR-II/PR-02/2023-04/PBN/Alakananda

A Maharatna PSU एक महारत्न सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का उद्यम

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HASSAN CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED

P.B. NO.120, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, B.M.ROAD, HASSAN-573201.
PH NO: 08172-240799 FAX: 08172-240640
E-mail Address: hamul77ah@gmail.com
IFT NO.HCMU/P&I/C.I/EPROC/1396/2023-24 DATE:14.06.2023

INVITATION FOR E-TENDER (LFT)
TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER

HAMUL invites E-procurement tender for cattle insurance (1) Quantity & EMD amount: as per bid notification available in e-portal. (2) Last date for submission of tender: 04.07.2023, 05.00 p.m. (3) Technical bid opening: 06.07.2023 at 11.00 a.m onwards. (4) Address for communication: Manager (AH/AI) at the above address. (5) Tender document may be downloaded from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No.U85110KA1995PLC018175

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED on **22.06.2023** at 10:00 am at NO 12/13, GROUND FLOOR, NORTH BLOCK, MANIPAL CENTRE, DICKENSON ROAD, KARNATAKA, 560042. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Loan Nos: BANGALORE - KORAMANGALA (BAK) -1993176 1993687. BANGALORE - RT NAGAR (BRT)- 1936433

For more details, please contact : **Mr. ANNA MARY V - 9844125795**

(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM

e-Procurement Short Term Tender Notice IFB Nos.36/2023-24 Dt.29.05.2023 (2nd Call), 49/2023-24, 55/2023-24, 58/2023-24 to 63/2023-24 Dt.31.05.2023 (2ndCall)

Tender for total **9 Nos. of Works** in respect of LLC Division, Ballari under works categories are re-invited through 'e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	19.06.2023 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time :	27.06.2023 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time :	27.06.2023 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (IFB No.36/2023-24(2ND Call)	27.06.2023 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of TQ Stage (IFB No.49/2023-24, 55/2023-24, 59/2023-24 to 63/2023-24 (2nd Call)	27.06.2023 at 6.00 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: (IFB No.49/2023-24, 55/2023-24,59/2023-24 to 63/2023-24 (2ndCall)	28.06.2023 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen @ https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Sd/-
Ph: 08394-259114 **Superintending Engineer,**
Fax: 08394-259167 **I.B, TB Board, TB Dam**

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./**e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/E 238717, L 238718, S 238719** तिथि/ **Date. 13.06.2023**

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "तिरुचेंदूर तथा सत्तनकुलम तालुक, जिला तूतिकोरिन में तकनीकी सेवा भवन, मुख्य अग्निशमन केंद्र, 50 घन मीटर जीएलआर का निर्माण (सिविल एवं जन स्वास्थ्य कार्य)" (₹ 404 लाख); "तिरुचेंदूर तथा सत्तनकुलम तालुक, जिला तूतिकोरिन में उपकेंद्र ए, उपकेंद्र बी के लिए भवन का निर्माण (सिविल एवं जन स्वास्थ्य कार्य)" (₹ 376 लाख); "तिरुचेंदूर तथा सत्तनकुलम तालुक, जिला तूतिकोरिन स्थित एसएसएलवी प्रमोचन परिसर (एसएलसी) में मुख्य प्रापण उपकेंद्र सुविधा का निर्माण (सिविल एवं जन स्वास्थ्य कार्य)" (₹ 321 लाख); हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **03-07-2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Construction of Technical Services Building, Base Fire Station + 50 cum GLR at Tiruchendur and Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu (Civil & PH works)" (₹ 404 Lakhs); "Construction of buildings for Substation A, Substation B at Tiruchendur and Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu (Civil & PH works)" (₹ 376 Lakhs);"Construction of Main Receiving Substation Facility at SSLV Launch complex (SLC) Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District (Civil & PH works)." (₹ 321 Lakhs)**; Tender documents can be downloaded up to **03-07-2023, 14:30 hrs**. Interested tenderer may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED

FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179
Unit 301-315, 3rd Floor, A wing, Kanakia Wall Street, Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai – 400093,
Contact No.: 022-68194000/022-66211000.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act],2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of possession
1	LATE MR. SRINIVAS E SINCE DECEASED SO ADDRESING TO HIS LEGAL HEIRS, A. SUMITHRA K, B. CHANDAN S, DODDALINGAIAH S / CO90COLONS000005010809 / MYSORE	Property No 258/258, unique no 152900100200300325 bv Halli Village & Grampanchaythi, chanapatna Taluk, Ramanagar Dist, Tumkur, P.O Bettahallimutt, Tumkur, Karnataka, Pin: 572126	16-03-2023 Rs.805741/-	13-06-2023

Date : 19-June-2023 **Sd/-, Authorised Officer,**
Place : Mysore **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

KMF Complex: Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.

IFTNo.KMF/ENGG/NPFP/Mechnical works/2023-24 **Date: 16.06.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two Cover System] [Through E-procurement portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender through e-procurement portal for the works mentioned in the below table. The interested and eligible firms may participate in the tender by logging on to web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ & also contact Help desk No.-080 23010900/23010901 E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Sl. No.	Nameof the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Contract Period
1	Supply, installation and commissioning of 30TR capacity cooling tower with necessary pipes and fittings etc., for NPFP, Munnekolala Bangalore	1 Job	50,000	02 Months
2	Supply, installation and commissioning of 100CFM capacity Air compressor with Receiver, pipes, fittings, valves etc., for NPFP, Munnekolala Bangalore.	1 Job	40,000	02 Months

1. Tenders may be downloaded from dated 19.06.2023 to 28.06.2023 up to 4-00 PM.
2. Last date for Tender submission on 28.06.2023 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on 30.06.2023 at 11:30 AM.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on e-procurement portal only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-2]

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that my client **SYED SHAHABUDDIN** S/o. Late S. A. Syed Esa, No.17/1A, 3rd Cross, Sultanpalya, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore-32, has either lost or misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 29-01-1979, regd. as Doc.No.3572/78-79, Book-I, Vol.2704, Pages: 105 to 109, regd. in the Office of Head Quarter Sub-Registrar, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, pertaining to Smt. Jeevarathna Dinakaran, in respect of Property bearing No.17/1A, PID No.95-8-17/1A, situated at **3rd Cross, Sultanpalya, R. T. Nagar, Bangalore-32,** and he has lodged a complaint with Bengaluru City Police vide Lost Article Report No. 0606750/2023, dated 18-06-2023. Any finder may kindly contact and return the same to the undersigned and will be suitably rewarded and if anyone has any claim/s over the said property may also lodge their claim/s with substantial documents.

T.M.SYED AFZAL AHMED (Advocate)
No.151/1-A, Lal Masjid Complex, Jumma Masjid Road,Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560 051, M : 9845546676

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients, **(1) Smt. Sulochana wife of late M S Atmalingaiah,** aged about 59 years, **(2) Smt. Shruthi daughter of late M S Atmalingaiah,** aged about 28 years and **Smt. Santhya Rani daughter of late M S Atmalingaiah,** aged about 26 years, all residing at No.272, Mallasandra, Manthappa Road, T Dasarahalli Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore 560 057 executed general power of attorney dated 31.01.2019 in favour of **Sri. Keshava Murthy,** son of late Chinnaiah, aged about 75 years, residing at No.45, Vigneshwara Layout, Shettihalli, T Dasarahalli, Bangalore 560 057, in respect of the bearing House List No.1, Katha No.18, Chikkasandra village, Chikkabanavara Group Panchayath, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, (morefully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property).

My client informs me that on the strength of the said power of attorney dated 31.01.2019, Sri. Keshava Murthy is trying to alienate/create encumbrance over the schedule property. Hence my client is constrained to cancel the said power of attorney dated 31.01.2019 with immediate effect i.e. from 18.06.2023. My client informs me that any acts, deeds and things carried out by Sri. Keshava Murthy on the strength of the said power of attorney after this date i.e. 18.06.2023, the same shall not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **property bearing House List No.1, Katha No.18, Chikkasandra village, Chikkabanavara Group Panchayath, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Ward No.12, measuring east to west 40 feet and north to south 27 feet** with existing constructions thereon and bounded on the:

East by : Road
West by : Shanthamma's property
North by : Rathnamma's property
South by : Road

Sd/-
V B Ravi Shankar, Advocate
No.258, 3rd Floor, 3rd Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore 560 018
Bangalore Date: 18.06.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients are intending to purchase the schedule property from its owner Mr Mansoor. A. Ebrahim for a valid sale consideration. If any persons having any claims, right, title, interest, whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to under mentioned address in writing, **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title or interest by anybody and my clients will proceed with the completion of sale transaction and will get register the absolute sale deed of the schedule property in their names.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of commercial property bearing No.44 & 45 (old No.18), BBMP PID No.47-55-44, situated at 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Kalasipalyam New Extension, Bangalore, measuring East to West 40 feet or 12.19 meters, North to South 30 feet or 9.14 meters, totally measuring 1200 square feet or 111.41 square meters, together with building constructed thereon with amenities and bounded on :-

East by : Site No.19, private property,
West by : 2nd Main Road,
North by : Property bearing No.1, new No.33,
South by: Private property bearing No.46.

V.N. SIMHA, Advocate,
No.38/15, WAT Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004. Mobile 9845549487
Place: Bangalore; Date:17-06-2023

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU

O.S. No. 4122/2020

BETWEEN: **(CCH - 41)**

Karnataka Bank, Naganathapura, No. 87, Mico Main Road, Vinayakanagar, Opposite RTO Naganathapura, Bengaluru - 560 100 **...Plaintiff**

And:

Revanasiddappa R S/o Rangappa Aged Major No.56, NL Puttappa Reddy Building Huskur Circle Madivala P.O Bengaluru - 560068 **...Defendant**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE 1908

To

Revanasiddappa R, S/o Rangappa, Aged Major, Residing at No.56, Kudlu Village, 56, NL Puttappa Reddy Building, Huskur Circle Madivala PO, Bangalore.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a suit under Order VII Rule I read with section 26 of the Code of Civil Procedure against you for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.3,05,445.27** (Rupees Three Lakhs Five Thousand and Four Hundred Forty Five and Twenty Seven Paise Only) along with future interest and costs.

Take Note that the above case is posted hearing on **19/07/2023** before the Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru (CCH 41). You are hereby called upon to appear before the Court on **19.07.2023 at 11 AM** in person or through your duly authorised counsel to answer the claim of the Plaintiff failing which the case will heard and decided in your absence in accordance with law.

Given under my hand seal of the court on this **5th day of June 2023 at Bengaluru.**

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Divya Purandar, Advocate,
No. 22, Silver Oak, Layout, J. P. Nagar VII Phase, Bangalore - 560 078.

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AYUSH SHETTY S/o Arpan Shetty K., Aged about 20 years, Residing at Flat No.004, MBM Residency, Doctors Layout, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru South, Subramanyapura, Bengaluru - 560061 I have changed my name AYUSH K. KAMOJI to **AYUSH SHETTY** for all purpose vide affidavit Dated: 16.06.2023 sworn before Notary, Aravind Patil G.G., 12th Main, Near old Sub Register Office, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 11

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mr. Veerabhadraiah Residing at Huliyurudurga Hobli Kunigal Taluku K.Byadarahalli, Tumkur, Karnataka-572123. I have lost my 1st and 2nd page Original Registered Sale deed bearing Doc.No.2742/2018-19 dated on 18.06.2018 For Property bearing Khatha No.80/30, Sy.No.30, Southern portion of Site No.38, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 10 ft and Site No.39 Northern portion of measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 10 ft total measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 20 ft total measuring 800 sq ft Situated at Manganahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, While Travelling in BMTC Bus.

If Any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property and document, the said claims along-with Supporting document shall be filed with undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. Any claim raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

Deepa A.M, Advocate,
KAR/474/2012, No.6, 80 feet Road, Chandra Layout, Bangalore-560040.
Bangalore, Dated: 19.06.2023

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF ODISHA LIMITED

IPICOL
(An ISO 9001-2008 Certified State Level Nodal Agency)
IPICOL HOUSE, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022, ODISHA,
Tel: 0674-2542601 Fax: 0674-2543766

CAD-981 **RfP FOR SELECTION OF A PR-COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA PARTNER FOR INVEST ODISHA**

Proposals from eligible firms are invited for selection of a PR-Communication & Social Media Partner. For tender details please visit www.ipicolodisha.com.
Deadline for Submission of Pre-Bid Query: **2 JULY 2023**
Last date for submission of proposals: **03:00 PM on 15 JULY, 2023**
OIPR- 14005/11/0008/2324

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone.: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135- 2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक सं. 566 दिनांक 17.06.2023

E-Tender
Date Extension Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of tender No. 04/EE (Civil-III)/LMP/2023-24for, " Construction of 04 Nos. A-Type residential Building for Lakhwar MPP at Dakpathar, Dehradun." invited by the office of Executive Engineer (Civil-III), Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun), is hereby extended :

Last date of downloading of bid: 22-06-2023 up to 16:00 hrs
Last date of submission of bid in e-procurement portal: 22-06-2023 up to 16:00 hrs
Last date of submission of documents in hard copy: 24-06-2023 up to 16:00 hrs
Due date for opening of Tender: 26-06-2023 up to 11:00 hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in" and Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com.

Executive Engineer (Civil-III)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

एमएसटीसी लिमिटेड MSTC LIMITED

19/5 & 19/6, 3rd floor, Kareem Tower Cunningham Road, Banglore-560052

E-AUCTION SALE

In accordance with the Section 48 of the Customs Act 1962, E-Auction will be held for disposal of Unclaimed / Un-cleared courier consignment Imported and landed at DHL Express Terminals, Airport Bangalore/Karnataka.
Materials : Electronic Goods, Laptops, Mobiles, Garments, Household items, Personal wear and other items on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS.

Sl. No.	Custodian name	Display date & time	Auction date & time
1	DHL EXPRESS INDIA PVT LTD Mr. Santhosh Ph : 99866 41666	5th JULY 2023 10 am to 5 pm. at M/s DHL Express (I) Pvt. Ltd. Cargo Village Warehouse Number 52 KIAL, Devanahalli, Bangaluru-560300	10th JULY 2023. 11:00 am

E-Auction (as per above schedule) will be held at Auctioneers' portal **www.mstcecommerce.com**. This published notice about the auction sale may also be deemed as a final notice under section 48 of Customs Act 1962. Custodian/Assistant Commissioner of Customs may withdraw any consignment from the auction. **Terms:** General Conditions of sale and any correction/Corrigendum of auction, Sale List containing goods of auction would be available at auctioneer's website, Entry Rs 150/- + GST per person. The successful bidder should take this delivery of the shipment within 21 days of auction date else no claim will be entertained. For details visit **www.mstcecommerce.com** & contact no Shri S K Khan, 080-22260054/ 22266417/9742223713

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 049

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಪ್ರಾಸಾಅ/ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ/ಹರಾಜು/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–06–2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಮೋಟಾರು ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ತನಿಖಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯವರು ತನಿಖೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಡಿಸಿರುವಾಗ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸದ ಪುರಾವೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮೂಲ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸದೇ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಸದರಿ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡು ಸುರಕ್ಷತೆಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ ಡಿಪೋಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ತೆರಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸದ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರಾಗಲೀ ಇಲ್ಲವೇ ಮಾಲೀಕರಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ಹಣಕಾಸು ನೆರವುದಾರರಾಗಲೀ [HPA] ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ದೀರ್ಘಕಾಲದಿಂದ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗದೇ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮೋಟಾರು ವಾಹನ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸೆಕ್ಷನ್ –11 [ಎ] [2] ರ ಅನ್ವಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 1 ರಿಂದ 15 ವರೆಗಿನ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುವ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ದಂಡವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಜಮಾ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ವಾಹನಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

SI. No.	VEHICLE NOS	CLASS OF VEHICLE	DATE OF REGN	CHASSIS	ENGINE	CR/NO DATE	TAX DUE	PLACE OF PARKING
1	TN-45-R-9599	Stage Carriage	17-06-2002	DME485228	JMH197388	420460/ 01-12-2018	2539029	Dipo 41 Gunjur
2	KA-51-7295	Stage Carriage	03-03-2008	NPE639176	TPH501546	0654785 04-01-2021	1065009	RTO Premises
3	KA-01-C-8767	Stage Carriage	20-02-2008	UPE634562	UPH495081	0654505 04-09-2020	1156714	RTO Premises
4	KA-51-A-6587	PSV	26-09-2011	MBUZT54 XBA0155593	SLT3BA 149158	0654513 21-09-2020	710316	RTO Premises
5	KA-03-B8505	LGV	02-03-2005	35711SAU Z8082321	497SPC31AV Z807608	0398441/ 11-05-2016	162227	Dipo 29 KR Pura
6	KA-05-AA-8631	Maxi Cab	05-01-2006	T58022320L06	D18010488	0696178/ 26-09-2019	131283	Dipo 39 Hosakote
7	KA-06-7722	LGV	03-05-1996	4EC60439285	4D31A60431849	0684905/ 17-06-2019	152324	Dipo 39 Hosakote
8	KA-08-4827	Maxi cab	29-10-2010	MAT445111A VJ65820	275IDI05 HZYSB9808	0398467/ 13-05-2016	193035	Dopo 39 Hosakote
9	KA-06-D-3637	Maxi Cab	23-01-2003	417005MXZ 923230	483DL47MXZ 720127	0466614/ 23-11-2017	40770	Dopo 39 Hosakote
10	KA-53-7456	Maxi Cab	07-03-2008	446054CRZ 910534	483DL56CRZ 705197	0557143/ 29-01-2019	110956	Dopo 39 Hosakote
11	KA-01-D-9437	Maxi Cab	04-11-2000	T58005245K00	D02006574	0465100/ 21-07-2017	242052	Dopo 39 Hosakote
12	KA-03-C-0788	LGV	09-02-2001	17FC10169402	E483A01261809	0696218 06-09-2019	55944	Dop 39 Hosakote
13	KA-08-7152	Maxi Cab	17-09-2013	MAT445117 DVF47899	275ID106 FWYSD4452	0684857 10-07-2019	131119	Dopo 39 Hosakote
14	KA-40-9617	Maxi Cab	05-06-2013	MAT445117 OVC22559	275IDI06CWY S62865	0643691 02-07-2018	120546	Dopo 39 Hosakote
15	KA-53-0254	Maxi Cab	26-10-2005	41801BJUZ 939039	483DL56JUZ 723600	0557483 12-04-2019	146201	Dopo 39 Hosakote

ವಾಹನಗಳ ನಿಲುಗಡೆ ಸ್ಥಳ :– ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣ, ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ ಘಟಕ 29 ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ, ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ ಘಟಕ 39 ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಹಾಗೂ ಘಟಕ 41 ಗುಂಜೂರು ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆಯೋ, ಹೇಗಿದೆಯೋ ಅದೇ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–07–2023 ರಂದು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಈ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಉಳ್ಳವರು ವಾಹನ ಇರುವ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಹರಾಜಿನ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು : 1) ದಿನಾಂಕ:05–07–2023 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11–30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:05–07–2023. ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11–00 ಘಂಟೆ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು **ರೂ.25,000/–** ದಂತ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಡಿ.ಡಿ/ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು TIN ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. **2)** ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರು ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾವಚಿತ್ರ ಇರುವ ಗುರುತಿನ ಚೀಟಿ, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ ಪುರಾವೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸುವುದು. **3)** ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡುದಾರರು ಹರಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಶೇಕಡ 50/– ರಷ್ಟು ಹಣವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಉಳಿದ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಹರಾಜು ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 07 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ GST ಅನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ TIN ನಂಬರಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿ, ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ಖರ್ಚಿನಿಂದ ವಾಹನವನ್ನು ಸುಪರ್ದಿಗೆ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು, ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ಶೇಕಡ 50/–ರಷ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದು. **4)** ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಜಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಲುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದು **5)** ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ವಾಹನದ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ತೆರಿಗೆ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡುದಾರರೇ ಭರಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. **6)** ಬಿಡುದಾರರು ವಾಹನ ಖರೀದಿಸಿದ ಮೌಲ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ GST ಮತ್ತಿತರ ಯಾವುದೇ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಭರಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. **7)** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ / ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕಿನ ಡಿ..ಡಿ / ನಗದು ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. **8)** ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡುವ ವಾಹನಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲಿವೆಯೋ, ಹೇಗಿವೆಯೋ, ಹಾಗೇ ಅದೇ ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. **9)** ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗದೇ / ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಇರುವ ವಾಹನದ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರು ಬಿಡು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಿದ ನಂತರ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಮೂಲ ಇನ್ವಾಯ್ಸ್ ನಂತೆ ತೆರಿಗೆ, ಸೆಸ್, ದಂಡ ಪಾವತಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹರಾಜಿನ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸಹ ಭರಿಸಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ / ವರ್ಗಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **10)** ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ವಾಹನದ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಅಥವಾ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ನೆರವುದಾರರು, ತೆರಿಗೆ + ದಂಡ ಪಾವತಿಸಿದರೆ ಅಂತಹ ವಾಹನಗಳನ್ನು ಹರಾಜಿನಿಂದ ಕೈ ಬಿಡಲಾಗುವುದು. **11)** ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸವಾಲನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ/ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ ರದ್ದು ಪಡಿಸುವ / ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು 560049 ರವರು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **080–25617951**

ಸಹಿ/– ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/BCPL/304/2023-24

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JUNE 19, 2023 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

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BLINKEN IN BEIJING ON HIGH-STAKES MISSION TO COOL US-CHINA TENSIONS

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday kicked off diplomatic talks in Beijing. It is the highest-level trip by a US official in 5 years

MEETS CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIN GANG

Blinken and his aides opened the two-day visit by meeting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang for an extended discussion that was followed by a working dinner. He will have additional talks with Qin, as well as China's top diplomat Wang Yi and possibly President Xi Jinping, on Monday. Blinken is the highest level American official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office

DIM HOPES FOR ANY MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

- While the prospects for a major breakthrough are dim, US officials expect the trip to pave way for more bilateral discussions in coming weeks and set the stage for one-on-one meetings between Xi and Biden later this year
- Blinken was originally scheduled to visit China in February but scrapped his plans after the US shot down a Chinese spy balloon flying over its soil

March 19, 2017

SECRETARY OF STATE REX TILLERSON WAS THE LAST TOP U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT CHINA

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

DRDO, Navy fly TAPAS drone, land it on warship

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Karwar

THE Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully demonstrated the transfer of command and control capabilities of TAPAS unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

The TAPAS UAV took off from Chitradurga's Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) and flew 285 km and landed successfully on INS Subhadra. According to the Navy, the vessel was 148km off the Karwar Naval base. A ground control station and two ship data terminals were installed on INS Subhadra to control the UAV.

The UAV took off at 7.35 am from the ATR and soared to a height of 20,000 feet and flew for three-and-a-half hours non-stop to land on INS Subhadra. "After this test, the UAV flew back to the ATR safely," said the Navy.

"This test is called C2 -- command and control capabilities -- to check the ability of the operator to control the drone's flight, sensors and payloads. C2 capabilities are essential for the safe and effective operations of a drone. This is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drone, which has a flight endurance of 24 to 48 hours," informed Girish Linganna, a Bengaluru-based defence expert.

TAPAS was designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency and can be used for patrolling and intelligence gathering for all the three forces. These UAVs are considered the Indian version of Predator drones of the United States. They are equipped with electro optics sensors to capture images and videos both during the day and night, long-range electro optics sensors to take images and videos from long distances that can be used for surveillance and reconnaissance missions and provide information about enemy movements and activities, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that uses a technique called synthetic aperture to create high-resolution images that can be used in all-weather conditions to obtain ground surface details like terrain features and objects, electronic intelligence, communication intelligence and other features.

TAPAS UAV (right) took off from Chitradurga's Aeronautical Test Range and flew 285 km, and landed successfully on INS Subhadra | EXPRESS

Women form a human chain to protest against the ongoing ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kukis in Manipur, in Imphal on Saturday night | PTI

Manipur CM calls Mizo counterpart for help in peace

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

BELEAGUERED Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday called up his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga and sought his help to douse the flames of ethnic violence between Meiteis and Kukis.

Zoramthanga is a Mizo. Mizos and Kukis share the same ancestry, culture and tradition. Thousands of displaced Kukis of Manipur are taking shelter in Mizoram.

"The Chief Minister of Manipur spoke to me over the phone at 12.30 pm regarding the #Manipur ongoing violence asking for my aid in resolving the issue with a hope that henceforth there would be a peaceful co-existence," Zoramthanga tweeted.

Singh also sought his help to ensure that the Meiteis living in Mizoram are safe.

Zoramthanga apprised Singh that the Mizoram government has already taken certain steps to abate the Manipur violence, adding the Meiteis living in Mizoram have nothing to fear.

No incident of violence was reported from any part of Manipur on Sunday even as the Central and state forces continued with joint marches.

Protesters, including women, in Imphal vented their ire against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They congregated at a marketplace and destroyed a radio during a symbolic protest against *Mann Ki Baat*. "We don't want to listen to *Mann Ki Baat*," they shouted.

In the Imphal Valley on Saturday night, hundreds of women holding fire torches took part in a protest against the violence. They demanded the implementation of National Register of Citizens the abrogation of "suspension of operation" agreement that the government had signed with some Kuki insurgent groups.

Meanwhile, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale condemned the violence in Manipur and appealed to the government, including the local administration, police, security forces and central agencies to restore peace immediately.

ABVP leader shares obscene videos of girl students, held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Shivamogga

AN AKHIL Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader from its Thirthahalli unit, who is studying at a college in the town, has been arrested for allegedly circulating obscene videos of girl students.

He allegedly lured young women and filmed them naked. He later used the videos to blackmail the young women, the police said. One such video went viral on social media sites.

The police arrested the accused and sent him to judicial custody.

The National Students' Union of India had filed a complaint with the police.

Tweeting about the incident, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee tweeted, and taunted MP and BJP Yuva Morcha national president Tejasvi Surya as to when he would open a helpline to save women from being harassed by some BJP leaders.

Following the incident, the Shivamogga CEN police station issued a warning to the public against sharing obscene photos and videos of women and children.

They said the culprits will be booked under section 67 (E) of the Information and Technology Act, which deals with punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.

The guilty can be punished with up to five years in jail. The police also warned WhatsApp group admins to be cautious.

12 injured as shuttle bus rams pole near T2 at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN a freak incident on the premises of the Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday morning, a shuttle bus ferrying passengers from the recently launched second terminal to the first rammed into a pole enroute. Twelve passengers, including a toddler, suffered minor injuries, while the front portion of the bus was badly damaged. An FIR was registered against the driver for rash driving.

By Sunday night, all passengers, except two, had been discharged from Aster CMI Hospital at Sahakar Nagar. "The two of them will undergo minor surgeries," said a hospital source.

According to a spokesperson of the airport operator, BIAL, "Around 5am on June 18, a shuttle bus operating between T1 and T2 of KIA collided with a pole near the T2 Arrival exit road, resulting in injuries to 10 people. There were a total of 17 on board (15 passengers and 2 staff) who. The injured were taken to a hospital for immediate medical attention."

Air India SATS Airport Services Ltd (AISATS) operates the shuttle services on contract from BIAL, the spokesperson said. **P5**

The mangled remains of the shuttle bus which hit a pole enroute Terminal 1

SHUTTLING TO TOP

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (right) and Chirag Shetty beat the Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the final of the Indonesia Open on Sunday | AP

EXPRESS READ

Website crash, but 55k register for Gruha Jyoti

BENGALURU: Amid reports of website crashing, around 55,000 consumers registered for the Gruha Jyoti scheme till 6 pm on Sunday, for 200 units of free electricity. The registration was supposed to open on June 15, but was pushed to June 18 to get the Seva Sindhu portal ready for huge traffic. However, many failed to access it | **P6**

Sec 144 in Raichur to protect water from dam

BELAGAVI : Battling an acute shortage of drinking water, Raichur district administration has imposed Section 144 before releasing water from Tungabhadra dam to prevent water diversion by people. At present, Raichur city gets water once in five days from the Krishna river, forcing residents to call for tankers for drinking water | **P7**

Telangana student tops IIT entrance

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @New Delhi

STUDENTS from the Hyderabad zone walked away with top ranks in this year's IIT-JEE advanced entrance exams, results of which were announced on Sunday. Telangana's Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy bagged the first rank scoring 341 out of 366, while Nayakanti Naga Bhavya Sree was the topper among females scoring 298 marks. She hails from Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh

Six of the top ten rankers are from the Hyderabad Zone, which included Ramesh Surya Theja, who stood second. The third and the fourth spots were bagged by Rishi Kalra and Raghav Goyal, both from the Roorkee zone.

Others in the top ten ranks are: Prabhav Khandelwal (6th) and Malay Kedia (8th) from the Delhi zone and Addagarla Venkata Sivaram (5th), Bikkinns Abhinav Chowdhary (7th), Nagireddy Balaji Reddy (9th) and Yankanti Pani Venkata (10th) from Hyderabad.

Overall, most students (174) in the top 500 are also from the Hyderabad zone. IIT Delhi zone saw 120 making it to the elite list, followed by 103 from the Bombay zone in the exams conducted by the Guwahati zone.

The ranks were decided by the sum marks obtained in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry as well as the aggregate.

V Chidvilas Reddy

The exams were taken by 1.80 lakh students, out of which 43,773 qualified, 36,204 of these are males and 7,509 females.

Officials said negative percentages came down this year. Also, questions inviting penalty were less, which led to pushing up the cut-off score.

A total of 13 foreign candidates and 155 Overseas Citizens of India cleared the examination.

JEE-Main, which is the admission test for engineering colleges across the country, is the qualifying exam for JEE-Advanced. The exam was conducted on June 4.

The Joint Seat Allocation counselling will begin from Monday, officials said.

B'LURU BOY K'TAKA TOPPER

Bengaluru boy, Ujwal L Shankar, topped the Joint Entrance in Karnataka. Ujwal, student of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, was the highest scorer in the institution-wise rankings for IIT Bombay

'PAW'TECTION

Ankola's Belgian Malinois to guard Indian borders

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Ankola (Uttara Kannada)

A POST on Facebook changed the history of 17 Belgian Malinois puppies which were born at a house in a village near Ankola.

For dog lover Raghavendra Bhat, a resident of Bavikere in Ankola taluk in Uttara Kannada district, rearing dogs has been a hobby. But an unexpected big event occurred when he, as usual, posted the pictures of his Belgian Malinois puppies. An officer from the Army in Assam contacted him immediately, requesting him to give the puppies to guard the borders.

Raghavendra Bhat with Devil, one of the rare Duron colour Belgian Malinois | EXPRESS

Bhat, an officer in the Department of Women and Child Development in Uttara Kannada, told this newspaper, "I had a big surprise when the Army officer contacted me. Another officer was sent to my house and he tested all the pups for 45 days, before ensuring that they are fit to serve the nation."

Bhat learnt about Belgian Malinois after a friend who works in CRPF informed him about the breed. "I searched for the best dogs and did not want any with a history of inbreeding. I brought the male from Bengaluru and a pair of females from Haryana. I retained one female Lisa. I got a duron colour male from Hyderabad, which we named Devil. Malinois with this colour is rare and most sought after. The rest is history," he said.

He has four Malinois now, KF, Devil, Lisa and Tiny.

Lisa littered 10 puppies and Tiny eight. Bhat's family never thought that the pups would be picked up by the Army. Earlier, a few pups had been taken for service by the state police.

The family has been rearing dogs for the last 25 years and have several rare and popular breeds in their collection, including dobermann, German shepherd, pit bulls and American bully. Their Indian breeds include Bully kutta and Mudhol hounds. He is now planning to bring in the best of Rajapalayam hounds to his collection.

ONE-POST FAME

After a Facebook post, an Army officer from Assam contacted Raghavendra Bhat, requesting that the puppies be given to guard the borders. The pups were tested for 45 days to be declared fit to serve the nation

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 19/06/2023 • Year: Shobhakruta • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Grishma • Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Prathami 9.30 am
• Nakshatra: Ardra 6.56 pm • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST
A few tstorms. Overcast.

Sunrise 5.54 am
Sunset 6.47 pm
Moonrise 6.37 am
Moonset 8.00 pm

'Want to fly fighter jet': Bengaluru lad makes it to Rashtriya Indian Military College

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

IN a proud moment for Karnataka, Divyansh Prakash (12) from DPS, Bengaluru, has been selected to the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He is the only candidate to qualify from Karnataka among the other 25 students selected from across the country.

RIMC is an Inter-Service Category 'A' establishment, administered through the Headquarters Army Military Training Command (HQ ARTRAC) under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Defence.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Divyansh said he is keen to fly the fighter jet when he grows up. His father, Ved Prakash, said, "This interest in the Armed forces developed from his regular visit to the Aero India show. He has been attending them since the age of 6."

Divyansh Prakash from DPS, Bengaluru

Divanysh is also an Olympiad winner since the age of three in Maths and Science. This year he received an Olympiad for English. One vacancy per state is allotted, however, some States with larger populations have the chance of availing of two vacancies. Divyansh was home-coached by his father for Maths and General Knowledge and taught English by his mother, dedicating 2-4 hours a day.

> **This interest in the Armed forces developed from his regular visit to the Aero India show. He has been attending them since the age of six**
> – Ved Prakash, Divyansh's father

RIMC provides public school education to young boys in the age group of 11-18 selected only through an All-India Competitive Examination. The school acts as a feeder to the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Naval Academy (NAVAC). The process begins in Class 8 in January and July, selecting 50 cadets a year.

It has a rigorous selection process comprising an entrance exam, interview and medical test. All the candidates, qualified after the interview, undergo a medical examination at selected military hospitals and only those candidates found medically fit, are considered for RIMC.

The reason why RIMC is famous is because of its rich history and strong alumni. The school has given the nation six service chiefs, 45 Army commanders and 194 three-star officers through the years. It traces its origin to the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College, inaugurated on March 13, 1922, by Prince Edward VIII, the Prince of Wales and post-independence, it was handed over to the Union Ministry of Defence.

JEE Adv: 'Ujwal' future as entrepreneur awaits boy

Shashank of Narayana Institute in HSR Layout AIR 2 in PwD category

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU boy, Ujwal L Shankar, topped Karnataka in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced, getting an All India Rank of 11.

Ujwal, a student of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, topped the JEE Advanced in Karnataka, and was the highest scorer in the institution-wise rankings for Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Ujwal said that while he isn't sure what field he wants to get into, he definitely wants to be an entrepreneur.

"I was expecting to get within AIR 100... but wasn't expecting such a high rank. I'm very excited and proud of myself for the achievement. I'm not sure what field I want to get into right now, but I definitely want to become an entrepreneur. However, there are some fields I have been eyeing, like combining healthcare with tech, delving into space research, data science, or electric vehicles," he told *The New Indian Express*.

Ujwal also was one of the top scorers in the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET), ranking seventh in the engineering stream.

The JEE Advanced results were announced on Sunday by IIT Guwahati, the organising institute this year. The exams

Ujwal L Shankar (left) is AIR 11 and Shashank B AIR 2 (PwD category)

are used for entry into IITs across the country. As many as 1.8 lakh students wrote the exam of which 43,773 students were declared qualified.

Meanwhile, B Shashank, a student of Narayana Institute in HSR Layout, came second in the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) category in the Advanced examinations. He attained the same ranking in the JEE Mains examinations as well. Speaking to TNIE, he said that his aim is to work for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), experiencing an interest in research and space. "My main aim was to ace JEE Advanced. I'm aiming for IIT Bombay, where I can pursue Computer Science," he added.

At a young age, Shashank suffered from a nerve injury to his right hand. The brachial plexus, a network of nerves on the right shoulder, were found to be damaged, resulting in loss of movement in his right arm.

Textbook changes to go online today

Bengaluru: Changes made to Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) textbooks will go online on Monday. The Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS) announced that the revised texts will be available online for teachers and students. On Saturday, KTBS released a list of revisions from Class 6 to 10 in Kannada Language and Social Science textbooks. As mentioned earlier by Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa, the textbook changes would be minor. According to KTBS, there are 18 revisions in total across all textbooks. This includes reintroducing 'A Letter to My Daughter', by Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi, and several other portions of textbooks that had been axed during the revision occurring under the BJP government. They also removed portions of the textbooks introduced by the revision committee last year, including a speech, titled 'Who Should Be An Ideal Role Model?', written by RSS founder KB Hedgewar. The revised textbooks can be viewed on the KTBS website: https://ktbs.kar.nic.in. **ENS**

DADDY DAY

The best place for a kid is to be on a father's shoulders while walking in Cubbon Park. It was Father's Day on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Srihari visits Gandhi Bazaar, flags lack of study before renovation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNDER renovation for almost a year now, the iconic Gandhi Bazaar was visited by

MN Srihari, traffic and transportation engineering expert, as the residents feared that the work would amplify the congestion on the road stretching from Tagore Circle to Ramakrishna Ashram Circle.

The forum has been inviting experts from different sectors, seeking opinions on the project and recommend changes.

After interacting with residents on Sunday, Srihari told TNIE, "There has been no proper study while approving this project. The Smart City funds have been not used in the right way." In Gandhi Bazaar, roads should be repaired and street lights added to uplift the area, he said, adding that the entire dynamics of the area should not be changed which will lead to more traffic.

"When vehicular traffic is increasing in the city, why are roads being narrowed and footpath size increased to 75 feet?" he said.

The project, which was started in September 2022 by BBMP and DULT, aims at transforming the century-old iconic bazaar into a Church Street-like shopping hub.

Heritage Basavanagudi RWF has been fighting against the commercialisation of the area over the past two years. The forum said that street vendors have encroached the residential area, and instead of the Smart City Project, the government should have opened a new shopping centre on barren land.

Guru Prasad RK, forum secretary, said, "We have approached the DyCM to cancel the project and save Basavanagudi from being commercialised. There have been many violations while approving the project." He also alleged that 40-50% commission has changed hands while sanctioning it.

Residents worry about traffic since 4-way lane has been reduced to 2. The parking space has also been reduced from a capacity 500 vehicles to 66.

More Shakti to religious tourism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ON the first weekend after the launch of Shakti, there was a rush to religious places. Buses to Dharmastala, Kukke Subramanya, Mysuru, Male Madeshwara Hills, Goravanahalli, Sringeri, Horanadu, among others were crowded. "With the number of women passengers on the rise since the launch, the first weekend saw a bustling Majestic, with multitudes of women devotees heading to religious places."

In some videos on social media, women were seen jostling with each other to get a seat and in another video, they were seen making all efforts to reserve their seats.

A source said that KSRTC staff at the booking counters and bus drivers and conductors faced a harrowing time, tackling the crowd of women. The women were made to book their tickets and then board the buses from Majestic. While data is still awaited on the number of women passengers who availed of Shakti, a source said it is expected to create a new record. As per data from KSRTC, 15.47 lakh women travelled in KSRTC buses on Saturday, 13.36 lakh in NWKRTC and 7.37 lakh in KKRTC.

Show govt ID proof in any language: BMTC

Bengaluru : To dispel confusion over what ID proof to show for Shakti, BMTC clarified women can show any government ID proof with Karnataka domicile in any language. Several complaints were received against BMTC bus conductors demanding Aadhaar cards in Kannada. "My wife while going to the office was forced to get down. She has an Aadhaar card of Bengaluru, which is in English and Hindi. The conductor asked for Aadhaar in Kannada," said Inderjit Singh, tagging the CM. BMTC MD, Sathyavati told TNIE that women, who are residents of Karnataka can produce any government ID, not mandatory in Kannada. **ENS**

NO NEW TARGET, WILL CLEAR BACKLOG FIRST: HOUSING DEPT

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

THE state housing department is working on clearing huge backlog under the housing schemes. They have not set any new targets and budgetary allocations since 2021. The focus is to facilitate the already identified beneficiaries, department officials said.

Data from the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd (RGHCL) for one of the sub

schemes, Devaraj Urs, revealed 1.07 lakh houses were sanctioned to the beneficiaries from 2014 till 2021. Of those, only 60,250 houses were completed, 16,063 remained under progress and construction for 24,278 has not even taken off.

With backlog piled up, the department has not allocated a budget for new beneficiaries since 2021, an official in-charge of the scheme implementation said. The objective is to first clear the backlogs. Setting up new targets will only add to the burden, the official said.

All projects under the RGHCL, started in 2000, have failed in fulfilling the 'housing for all by 2022' target set by PM Narendra Modi in 2015. A few of the sub schemes are Basava Vasathi Housing Scheme, Dr BR Ambedkar Niwas Yojana and Ashraya Housing Scheme targeting different socially and economically weaker sections of the society.

Multiple sections of society including transgenders, people with disability, HIV patients and others have missed out on the scheme. Akkai Padmashali, a transgender activist, said that lack of coordination and negligence among officials have failed to benefit everyone. People have had bitter experiences while enquiring about registering under the scheme.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, 2022 had flagged many deficiencies including improper survey, duplication of beneficiaries, delay in fund dissemination and slow identification of targeted beneficiaries, that have deprived lakh of eligible people.

Only 13.72 lakh beneficiaries were identified till 2021 as against 20.35 lakh projected in the Karnataka Affordable Housing Policy. The CAG report also recommended forming strategic annual plans and ensuring they are done in time. The state government must follow all conditions to prevent late dissemination of funds.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

19TH June: The impact of the recent dramatic lunar alignments is likely to continue over the next few days, and all of us are liable to feel a little stressed. It is a perfect moment to get to the underlying truth, but there's a snag - all of us have our own, different views of what is true. Your truth may not be my truth!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Everything in your chart shouts about the need to get on with other people. In point of fact, you're entering a period during which competition will get you nowhere and co-operation will yield continual dividends. It will help to take a look at the bigger picture.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You could be walking a romantic tightrope, and others are bound to challenge your habits and preconceptions. But even in the most awkward moments, please try to realise that they are only acting for the best. People who are out only to help themselves will gain nothing in the long run.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If you should feel that the short-term advantage is slipping away from you, don't worry, for the long-term position is looking just fine. In particular you can look forward to improvements in relationships with children - but you might have to take the lead.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You'll be caught on the horns of a dilemma; not exactly sure of how far current changes should go. Start by considering which domestic improvements should be at the top of your list, and persuade a partner you're right. And if they don't listen, try again!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You are used to people standing in your way, and when you entered on your current domestic path, no one pretended that everything would be easy. In many respects, though, a partner's awkward behaviour will do you a good turn! You might even work out just where you stand on a particular problem.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
One cycle of opportunity is now almost over, and it's up to you to assess if the chances you've had have been to your liking and, therefore, whether you wish to continue to pursue them. Plus, remember, nature abhors a vacuum, so when one phase comes to an end, another must begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your financial situation is looking more and more complicated. There's little in the stars to indicate whether you're heading for a small loss or a major profit, but it will help to keep your feelings under control. You don't want to risk embarrassment, now, do you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
This week certain circumstances seem to be united in pushing you towards a passionate explosion, so don't be surprised if you begin to feel confused. Still, there's lots to get on with and you'll feel happier if you make an early start, no matter what you're doing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You must get on with your own affairs and avoid trying to run someone else's life. Above all, it's a day for putting your plans into action, and if you are content to do no more than fantasise, you'll end up nowhere!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Domestic necessities represent the most urgent demand on your funds, so if you have any other spending plans you must make extra cash available. Even at home, peace can be bought by a simple matter of bribing your relations. That might be manipulative - but it could also be necessary!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may put your foot down at home. You could be a little unsteady emotionally, but you know what you want, and you know how to get it. At work you may now begin to plan your next step, but you can, perhaps, take your time. If you make a premature judgement you might have to change it later.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Today's stars are simultaneously active and reclusive, which suggests that you will probably be getting on with goals which make a lot of sense to you, but not to other people. You may now carve out your own path through the jungle of everyday life.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

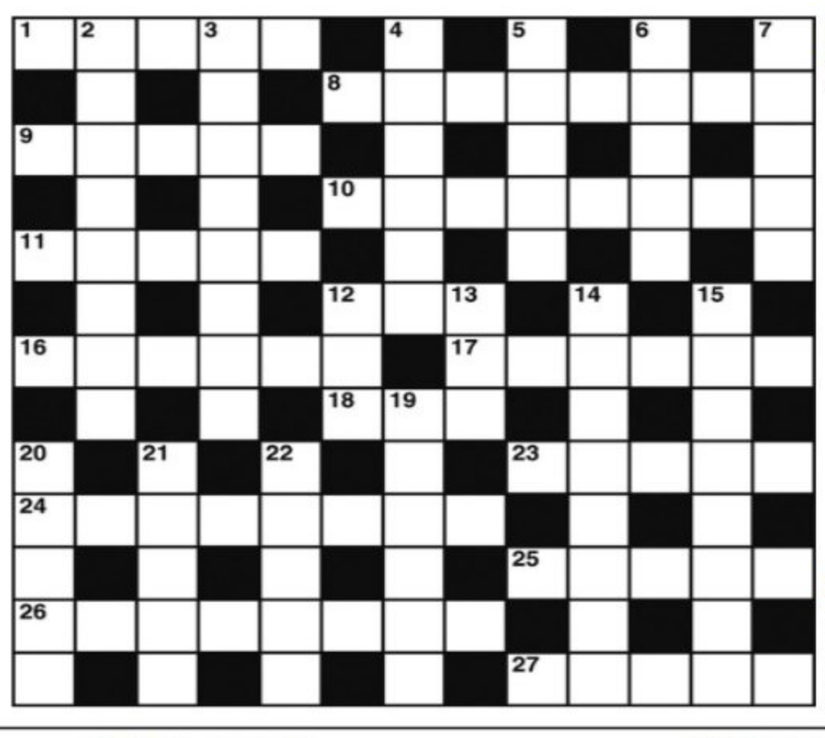
				3		9		
					9		7	8
6			7	8			4	
		5				3	9	
			8	1	3			
	4	1				8		
	5			4	8			6
7	8		5					
		4		7				

7	9	2	8	6	1	3	5	4
5	6	1	7	3	4	9	2	8
8	4	3	5	9	2	1	6	7
6	2	7	4	5	9	8	1	3
4	8	9	6	1	3	2	7	5
1	3	5	2	8	7	6	4	9
9	7	4	3	2	6	5	8	1
3	5	6	1	7	8	4	9	2
2	1	8	9	4	5	7	3	6

SUDOKU

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Commercial vehicle traffic (5)
8 A competition to fire people (4,4)
9 Miss a blank space (5)
10 Release a shipment (8)
11 No heat when the heat is really on (5)
12 Show disapproval when the booze is cut short (3)
16 Maintain some mythological legends (6)
17 Not any sort of companion for Cleopatra (6)
18 Not a horse but a girl backs it (3)
23 Translation of prose is a problem (5)
24 Cure for love-sickness? (8)
25 Book a useless house by the ocean (5)
26 Calling for employment (8)
27 A condition in which royalty may lie in public (5)

DOWN
2 Call for a rise (8)
3 A teach-in arranged for brewers? (5,3)
4 The look and smell of a summerhouse? (6)
5 Woolly lot of wild geese (5)
6 Judged and severely rebuked (5)
7 Robbery list includes a precious stone (5)
12 Maybe you hold a Turkish title (3)
13 Satisfaction expressed about a timber supplier (3)
14 Didn't sit inside and was conspicuous (5,3)
15 Capital outcome in street repairs (8)
19 He writes of gold going to hammer thrower (6)
20 Draw a hole (5)
21 Everything in the shop for farm animals (5)
22 Revises information about diets (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Coronation, 6 Edam, 10 Synod, 11 Signalmen, 12 Overturn, 13 Serif, 15 In tails, 17 Covered, 19 Thrusts, 21 Marsala, 22 Extra, 24 Baroness, 27 Scutcheon, 28 Ranup, 29 Disc, 30 Stargazers.

Down: 1 Cast, 2 Renovator, 3 Nadir, 4 Tissues, 5 Organic, 7 Demur, 8 Men of ideas, 9 Passover, 14 Distressed, 16 Instance, 18 Road sense, 20 Subject, 21 Mariner, 23 Truss, 25 Norma, 26 Opus.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

VKOEE

VALEG

IDAVEN

MSEMUR

I'm sorry. I'll fix it as good as new; I swear.
That's okay. Next time, please ask first.
AFTER SHE ACCIDENTALLY RIPPED HER SISTER'S FAVORITE SWEATER, SHE SEWED IT TO ---
4/21
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: ADMIT RAINY SOCCER UNTOLD
Answer: The cost of building new telescopes to advance the study of astronomy is — ASTRONOMICAL

A 13-year-old boy who was playing kho-kho with his friends after school hours died at a village in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru. The deceased, Shashank, was a Class 9 student

Consumer court asks matrimony firm to pay up

To compensate woman HR exec Rs 90K for sharing fake matrimonial prospects

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE consumer commission in the city has directed Gathbandhan Matrimony Pvt Ltd (GMPL) to pay Rs 90,000 to an HR Executive of a reputed multinational company, in addition to the refund of a membership fee of Rs 43,000 with 9 per cent interest per annum, for sharing fake prospective matches which were all non-existent.

Allowing partly the complaint filed by a 40-year-old woman from RT Nagar, the commission, comprising president Shivarama K, Members Raju KS and Rekha Sayannavar, passed the order to pay damages of Rs 50,000, compensation of Rs 30,000 and litigation cost of Rs 10,000, in addition to a refund membership by GMPL.

"The act of the GMPL has caused her emotional harm and injury to her dream of getting married to a genuine profiled person... In this busy lifestyle and tight time management, the GMPL cheated the complainant by providing fake matrimonial profiles and wasting her valuable time as she is an HR Executive in a reputed multinational company. It amounts to 'Injury' as enumerated under Section 2 (23) of the Consumer Protection Act," the commission observed.

An advertisement in a newspaper kindled the interest of the complainant, who is looking for matrimonial alliances, and hence she purchased the membership 'Assisted Matrimonial Service' of GMPL by paying a fee of Rs 43,000 in April 2022.

Initially, the GMPL came up with multiple flimsy reasons and avoided arranging the meetings with suitable matches. When she suspected the genuineness of the service, the GMPL shared a few prospective matches with her. Shockingly, those matches were all fake on the face of it and in fact, they were all non-existent. She made independent verification of these profiles on social media and found out that the GMPL had misused those profiles and misled her, the complainant alleged.

She further stated that all profiles were fake. Devastated, the complainant approached the consumer commission. The GMPL remained absent for proceedings before the commission and placed an exparte.

Why is cop not in custody? HC seeks explanation from DCP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) to submit an explanation as to why police constable Fakirappa Hatti (28), attached to Mahadevapura police station, was not taken into custody despite a clear order by the court to this effect, after cancelling his bail.

"The explanation should be filed by July 5, the next date of hearing. Failing this, the DCP of the jurisdiction should be present before court," Justice M Nagaprasanna said in the order passed on June 16.

This was after counsel of the complainant-victim submitted that petitioner Fakirappa Hatti, the accused, is absconding and has managed to evade arrest, despite the passage of four months. It prima facie appears that the petitioner-accused is benefiting from "a protective umbrella" to evade arrest, only because he belongs to the police department.

The accused approached the high court, questioning registration of a crime pending before the magistrate court, for offences under Sections 323, 376, 420 and 506 of the IPC.

According to the complaint, Hatti was deputed to Mahadevapura Police Station and came in contact with the victim, befriended her and developed an intermittent physical relationship with her, allegedly on the promise of marriage. About two years later, the victim-complainant sought to register a case against him, alleging assault, rape and breach of promise of marriage.

The petitioner was initially granted bail on April 4, 2022, and later, the high court on July 1, 2022, passed an order setting aside the bail order, and directed that he be taken into custody. After the order was passed, the accused filed a petition on July 7, 2022, without divulging that the bail stood cancelled. The high court, on the submission made by the counsel for the petitioner, granted an interim stay order on further proceedings on July 25, 2022.

On March 15, 2023, when the coordinate Bench noticed that the accused had misled court by suppressing the fact that his bail was cancelled, vacated the interim order granted. While cancelling bail, the court directed that the accused be taken into custody forthwith, but he was not arrested.

WALK FOR LIFE

Members of the Surgical Society of Bengaluru and volunteers take part in a walkathon on Surgeons' Day in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Cops crack down on foreigners; pubs raided

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FOLLOWING complaints of illegal activities by foreign nationals, the Central Division police cracked down on them at Brigade Road on Saturday night.

Medical tests determined that out of the 25 persons detained, six had consumed drugs.

Police said following complaints of drug peddling and prostitution by foreigners at pubs located on Brigade Road and MG Road during weekends, a special operation was conducted on Sunday night. During the operation, the police nabbed 25 foreign nationals and took them for medical tests.

"Six persons tested positive for drugs and they have been booked under the NDPS Act. Besides, two cases were registered under the Foreigners Act for overstaying as their visas had expired while another case related to criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty was registered," the police added.

Meanwhile, the women protection wing of the Central Crime Branch raided three pubs and arrested nine persons. The police raided Fuel Restobar in The Pride Hotel where women staff were made to wear obscene clothes and were made to sit with male customers and behave inappropriately with them.

Three staff were arrested and 19 women were rescued from the hotel.

In HBCS Layout in Domlur, Club-7 was raided for playing loud music without a valid licence and three were held. In Kothanur police station limits, Shegan bar and kitchen was raided and three were held for operating beyond permissible hours and playing loud music.

Will take mitigating measures after probe: BIAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

A source said that 12 of the flyers had arrived by a flight (i5 554) from Kolkata at T2 at 4.25 am. They were on their way to T1 to take buses or cabs home, he explained. "A family of three, including a two-and-a-half-year-old child had arrived at T1 early in the morning by an Indigo flight. They were at T2 to have a look at the new terminal. They were returning to T1 when the child and parents were injured in the accident," another source said.

The staff on board were the driver and the helper of AISATS. It was just a month ago that AISATS commenced operation of electric shuttle services between the two terminals.

A source said that of the ten injured, four were given first-aid at the Aster CMI clinic inside the airport and discharged. "As a precautionary measure, six injured were shifted to Aster CMI Hospital at Sahakar nagar. They included the child and the parents and three men."

They were minor injuries like a cut on the chin or on the hand and four of them were discharged later, the source added.

An FIR has been registered at the Devanahalli traffic police station under IPC Sections 279 (rash driving in a public way endangering human life) and 337 (Hurt to any person by a rash act), said a policeman.

An airport spokesperson said, "We are working with the (bus) operator to investigate the matter and will take all necessary mitigating measures as per the agreement."

EXPRESS READ

3 kids drown in lake

Bengaluru: Three children drowned in a lake in Vijayapura of Devanahalli taluk on Saturday. The deceased are Guruprasad (6), Karthik (16) and Dhanush (15), all residents of Vijayapura. Police said the boys had gone to play at Amanikere lake near their house on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday morning, the bodies of the three children were fished out from the lake. ENS

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To dispel confusion over what ID proof to show to avail the Shakti scheme, BMTC has clarified that women can show any government ID proof with Karnataka domicile, which can be in any language

Deeper probe into PSI scam: Dr G

'We've approached court for re-exam, but passed candidates have challenged it'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE government will further probe the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) recruitment scam. "We will take up the investigation again. We will go to the bottom of it and no one will be spared. The exam part also needs to be inquired into," Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara told The New Indian Express on Sunday.

While a new probe is likely, the police department is suffering because of vacancies of close to 1,000 posts of sub-inspectors. The recruitment of a batch of 545 sub-inspectors has been stuck in issues surrounding the scandal, while the government is deciding on recruitment of around 400 SIs, which will affected because of the investigation.

Parameshwara said, "Since these 545 sub-inspectors would be their seniors, we cannot go ahead with the recruitment of 400 SIs."

In the scam-affected recruitment process, the selected sub-inspectors have gone to court, arguing that they had been chosen after a due process and after they appeared for the exams.

They contend that those involved in the scam are only about 40 candidates and why should they suffer because of the misdeeds of others.

Parameshwara said, "The state government has gone before the court, seeking permission to hold a re-exam, while those who have passed are challenging this. I would say if they have prepared properly for the exam, they should be confident of facing it again. We have held meetings to discuss what to do with these candidates. While some officers suggested that a re-exam should be conducted, the whole issue is entangled in the court case."

On the Bitcoin scandal, he said that though the central government has closed the investigation, the state government will conduct a fresh probe. "The main accused, Shriky, is out on bail. Too much money is involved and there is a hand of some very powerful people. We will see."

Suresh knows his brother may not become CM: BJP

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

A DAY after Bengaluru Rural MP D K Suresh's surprise announcement that he may quit electoral politics, the BJP leadership attributed it to him losing all hope of his elder brother and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar becoming the Chief Minister.

Shivakumar's Vokkaliga compatriot and former minister R Ashok asserted that Shivakumar will never become the CM as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will not share power. "Being a CM is a beggar's dream for Shivakumar. Suresh understands this well, so he has started talking about quitting politics," he said.

Ashok observed that Shivakumar's stature as a political leader is not as tall as Siddaramaiah as the latter is like 'Chanakya' and is known for his Machiavellian master strokes. "For a man who can handle the likes of former PM H D Deve Gowda and former CM H D Kumaraswamy, handling Shivakumar is not a big deal. Like in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, there will not be any power sharing in Karnataka," Ashoka said.

Shivakumar, however, tried to act as shadow chief minister by holding a series of meetings on his own," he added.

It may be noted that Ashoka, apart from his Padmanabha Nagar assembly constituency, was also pitched against Shivakumar by the party high command in the May 10 Assembly polls from Kanakapura Assembly seat. But the latter won with a landslide

margin. Both Ashoka and Shivakumar were on good terms, according to sources. Which means, Ashoka has been sympathetic about Shivakumar's chances of becoming CM becoming bleak, according to political pundits.

Likewise, another Vokkaliga leader and Mysuru MP Pratap Simha had also alleged that Siddaramaiah has been shooting at Shivakumar by placing his gun on the shoulder of Medium and Large Industries Minister M B Patil as the latter had stated that there will be no sharing of the CM's post.

Speaking to TNIE, Congress spokesperson Nataraj Gowda Ashoka could not stomach the Congress' stable government and has been trying to create a rift between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. "The government is just one month old and the issue of the CM is irrelevant. Ashoka, who wanted to be Bengaluru Urban district minister in the previous BJP government, is also jealous of Shivakumar's efforts to boost the city's image," he said.

When contacted over phone, Suresh declined to respond to the statements of Ashoka. " I am still abiding by my statement that I will think about contesting the 2024 LS polls. But I will be very much in the constituency serving the people as my term is still remaining. Like me, any other leader may emerge as a candidate that the party leadership will have to find out. I do not know whether the leadership is scouting for an alternative candidate or not," he said.

Meanwhile, when asked about his cabinet colleague and Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa's statement, Siddaramaiah shot, "You should ask him only. I do not know what he has said. How should I know what he said."

Siddu will be CM for 5 years: Satish

Davangere: PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Sunday said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete the full five-year term, and there are no questions about it. Addressing the media at Rajanahalli Valmiki Gurupeet after being felicitated, the Valmiki strongman asked the media as to who said there would be sharing of power. Responding to a question on the central government discontinuing the sale of rice to states, he said the problem will be resolved soon and people will be get 10 kg of rice as per the Congress promise. Taking a dig at the BJP, he said the saffron party, which openly opposed our programme of giving 10 kg of rice has no right to protest now. It is an issue between the Congress and the people, said Jarkiholi. **ENS**

Industry power behind K'taka bandh on June 22

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

INDUSTRY associations backed Karnataka Bandh on Sunday against the recent power tariff hike, which they said will increase their burden, and financially drain businesses and customers.

The Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has called for a 24-hour Karnataka Bandh on June 22, against power tariff hike by Escoms.

KCCI has appealed to all its members and associations to participate. "For the last eight days, we have been trying to convey how the decision will impact us. However, there has been no solution offered by the government," the KCCI said in a letter to its members on June 17.

"Ensuring power supply at affordable rates would definitely help the industry. The tariff hike should be deferred by a minimum of two years, taking into consideration the current growth in industrial output. Also, bankers and financial institutions should provide adequate assistance to overcome rising overheads and the impact of rise in power costs," Bangalore Chambers of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) president, Dr L Ravindran, said.

Meanwhile, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Society (FKCCI) director, BV Gopal Reddy, said the industry is against the hike in power tariff. The federation has shot off a letter to the Energy Minister KJ George to reduce power tax from 9 per cent to 3 per cent, which will also reduce the per unit cost by 40-45p. "Minister KJ George promised to discuss this with CM Siddaramaiah, after which the next course of action will be clear," Reddy said.

Supporting the bandh, industry experts said that the decision comes at a time when the companies have just recovered from humongous losses suffered during the pandemic. This will again push businesses into losses. The increasing production cost will also impact a consumer's buying behaviour.

GOODWILL CALL

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah greets Archbishop of Bangalore Rev Dr Peter Machado in Bengaluru on Sunday. Energy Minister K J George was also present | EXPRESS

With no KSRTC service, Shakti scheme moot for these tribal villages

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru

EVEN as the Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for women, receives an overwhelming response across the state, residents of several tribal areas are unable to utilise the benefit as Karnataka State Road Transport Corporations doesn't have services in interior villages in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts.

Tribals belonging to Bedaguli, Attekane, Betta Guddu in Biligiriranga Tiger Reserve (BRT) have to depend on a lone private bus to reach Chamarajanagar. The KSRTC has refused to run services pointing at narrow roads and steep curves despite villagers appealing to the authorities to asphalt the road for the past two years. The authorities have repaired 6-7 km of the road while a longer stretch has been left unattended.

"A mini-bus operates two single trips from Chamarajanagar to Beduguli both in the morning and evening. Youths use their own bikes to reach the town or their workplace. Hundreds of them walk for 2-3 km in the thick forest area to reach the main road to catch the bus. It's all the more difficult for pregnant women who have to depend on crowded buses for their routine check-ups," said Mallesh, a resident.

KSRTC divisional controller Srinivas said the corporation can't operate in the BRT area because of bad roads. He said they will operate mini buses to Athekane, Bedaguli and other hamlets if the roads are repaired.

Hundreds of Adivasi women in Mysuru district too experience the same trouble as 90 per cent of tribal hadis fall in interior places where KSRTC buses do not ply. Barring Shattahalli hadi, all the other hadis fall in the forest fringes.

Ramu, a tribal, said many of them prefer to travel by jeeps paying from their pockets instead of walking for miles to take buses operated via Nagarhole forest.

The situation is no different in HD Kote with 120 hadis in interior areas not having proper connectivity. He said many tribals use their vehicles to reach estates for work.

The tribals also revealed that 875 families would not be able to enjoy the benefit of Anna Bhagya scheme as they have not renewed their ration cards.

Soma, a tribal, said the district administration should launch a drive visiting tribal hadis to renew all ration cards so that the poor can utilise the social schemes announced by the government.

Falling short of 2.38 lakh tonne of rice, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has hinted that Karnataka may be unable to get the 2.38 lakh tonne of rice required for the supply of an additional 5 kg per person under the Anna Bhagya scheme as neighbouring states have declined its requests. If the rice is brought from Chhattisgarh, the transportation cost will be too high, he said.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Siddaramaiah said they sought rice from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "Telangana has declined the request, while Andhra government has not committed. The Chhattisgarh government has promised to supply around 1 .5 lakh tonne of rice, but going by the distance, the cost of transportation will be high," he said.

When asked why they are not buying rice from Karnataka farmers, he said paddy is grown in large areas only in Raichur. "Rice is expensive there, coming at Rs 55 per kg, while rice from the Food Corporation of India is Rs 34 per kg," he said.

He said the Centre is playing politics. This scheme is for the poor. "Earlier, they earlier agreed to provide an additional five kg rice per day. But later, they wrote back that they cannot," he said. On industry associations set to protest against the power tariff hike, the CM said officials are trying to convince them.

Congress leaders with mounds of foodgrains during a mock harvest protest in Tumakuru on Sunday

CONGRESS TO SEND FOODGRAINS TO FCI

Tumakuru: With mounds of paddy, ragi and jowar grains, Congress workers conducted a mock harvest in protest against the Centre for discontinuing the sale of rice to states, at the Town Hall Circle here on Sunday. District Congress president Chandrashekar Gowda said the foodgrains will be sent to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) as a mark of protest. He alleged that the Centre's move was mainly targeted at scuttling the implementation of the state government's Anna Bhagya scheme. About 1.28 crore families and 4.42 crore people will be affected by the Centre's decision, he added. **ENS**

People won't accept 1 g less rice: BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

FORMER chief minister B S Yediyurappa said Congress leaders are unnecessarily creating confusion and blaming the Union government over the free distribution of rice to BPL cardholders.

Speaking to reporters here on Sunday, the BJP leader said the Centre is already giving 5 kg of rice per person free of cost. "But the Centre did not agree to give additional quantity of rice. It is the state government's responsibility to give the additional rice. Let them buy from anywhere and give 10 kg of rice to beneficiaries as promised. People will not agree if the rice distributed is less by one gram. Hence, I urge the government to fulfil its promise. Blaming the Union government is uncalled for. Prime Minister Narendra Modi never said that additional five kg of rice will be given," he said.

Yediyurappa advised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar to stop blaming the Union government on the supply of additional quantity of rice.

Asked about the BJP delaying electing an opposition leader, Yediyurappa said Central leaders will take a call on this before the commencement of the legislative session.

Site crashes, but 55k register for Gruha Jyoti scheme

ENS @ Bengaluru

AMID reports of a portal crash, around 55,000 consumers registered for the Gruha Jyoti scheme till 6 pm on Sunday, for 200 units of free electricity for eligible households. The registration was supposed to open on June 15, but was pushed to June 18 to get the Seva Sindhu portal ready for the huge traffic. Despite that, many failed to access the portal.

"The link did not work. The government should be ashamed," said Sharath Kumar KP, after trying countless times to register. Those who went to BangaloreOne, KarnatakaOne and the Bescom offices had the same experience because of no link. Bescom officials maintained that the link was set to be active for e-gov centres from 11am Sunday and post 3 pm for self-registration, the link was not working.

Under fire, Bescom shared the link on social media pages, and said it was active, but only a few could open. Those who opened it complained they could not get the OTP for registration while others said documents could not be uploaded.

Sand miners digging up Tungabhadra river bed in dead of night

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @Gadag

WITH water level in the Tungabhadra river reaching rock bottom, illegal sand miners are having a field day in Mundargi taluk. Since the lifting of restrictions following the Assembly elections nearly a month back, miners have been illegally scooping sand worth crores from the river bed during nights.

Villagers have complained to officials about lorries transporting sand from the river but in vain. Though the Gadag district administration, revenue department and police have warned of strict action for illegal sand mining and have kept a vigil, the activity continues unabated in the river basin during the dead of the night.

On June 5, the district administration issued a public notice stating that there will be a ban on sand mining during the South West Monsoon. However, illegal mining continued unabated. Even Gadag District Minister H K Patil instructed officials to take necessary actions on illegal mining.

Malleshappa Patil of Kakkur said, "We have been complaining to the officials that illegal miners come to the river bed around 2-3 pm, and we cannot sleep due to the sound of lorries. The officials keep vigil during the day, hence illegal mining takes place at night. They are digging the core river areas as water level has reduced."

Gadag DC Vaishal ML said, "We received some complaints on illegal mining at nights and we will soon take strict action."

Major crackdown in Davanagere

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

THE recent incident wherein a police constable was mowed down when he tried to stop a tractor transporting sand illegally in Jewargi taluk is keeping officials on their toes in other districts. In Davanagere, the rampant illegal sand mining along the Tungabhadra river has been brought down.

Since the last two months, the district administration and police have been constantly monitoring illegal sand mining in the district.

Earlier, sand used to be mined illegally in Ingalagundi, Gutturu, Deeturu and Fathepura during nights. Now, all these has been stopped. Sand is now permitted to be extracted from four blocks in Bilasanuru, Rajanahalli, Sarathi and Chikka Bidari. Police have also prevented illegal sand mining in Honnali's Kyasinakere, Kulagatte, Sasivehalli, Ujjinipura and Bhairanahalli from where cops confiscated sand worth Rs 12 lakh.

Those fascists in Tamil Nadu desperate to rule and looking for backdoor entry would be tamed like bulls, said Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin at an event in Chennai organised by pro-jallikattu outfits to express their gratitude to CM MK Stalin for the efforts towards getting the Supreme Court nod to conduct the traditional sport

MONSOON RAINS MISERY IN PARTS OF K'TAKA COAST AS SEA EROSION INTENSIFIES

DIVYA CUTINHO, PRAKASH SAMAGA, SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Mangaluru, Udupi, Karwar

WHILE the onset of monsoon brings smiles on the faces of many as it means prosperity for them, it's pain and destruction for thousands of others living on the sea shores of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts. Rough seas gobble houses, trees and fishing boats, forcing people to move from their homes.

A study on sea erosion conducted by Prof. KS Jayappa, chairman, Department of Marine Geology, Mangalore University, states that of the 300 km shoreline in Karnataka, 40 per cent of 30 beaches are affected by sea erosion. Ullal beach in Mangaluru is losing more than 1 metre of shoreline every year.

Prof Jayappa says a large quantity of sediment is dredged for various developmental activities, including concrete roads, multi-storied apartments etc for which a lot of sand is being utilised. This has led to a drastic reduction in the source of sediment, also because of the construction of vented dams. "These dams, apart from storing water, also hold back sediment which otherwise would have reached the shore and come back to the beaches through the wave activity. Human interference, such as construction of seawalls, ports, harbours and encroachments, are also some of the reasons," he adds.

In Mangaluru, of the 40 km coastline, around 15 km from Someshwara to Sasihitlu is vulnerable to sea erosion. Someshwara, Batapady, Ullal, Meenakaliya, Chitrapura, Surathkal Lighthouse, Mukka, Hosabettu and Sasihitlu constantly bear the brunt.

Officials of the Department of Ports (now, Karnataka Maritime Board), Mangaluru claim that they have built permanent seawalls using huge boulders for about 9 km of the affected 15 km coastline. As an immediate measure, the government has been constructing temporary sea walls worth Rs 20 lakh every year in most affected seashores in Mangaluru, as recommended by the Karnataka Engineers Research Station (KERS). With the help of an ADB aid, onshore, offshore and inshore berms have been constructed in Ullal and Someshwar, and a proposal has been sent to install sea wave breakers around Ullal.

Seawalls prevent erosion only temporarily. Experts say spending money on them is a waste, while some environmentalists suggest relocating people residing within 200 metre of the high tide line. "Many unauthorised guesthouses have been built in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules and they need to be demolished. As per the CRZ norms, no structure should be built within 500 metres of the shoreline, but authorities have failed to take action. The real sufferers are fishermen who have been living there for decades. But non-fishermen build structures, despite being aware of the danger, only to claim compensation from the government. CRZ rules should be enforced strictly," says an environmentalist.

So far, sea erosion has claimed over 100 houses of fishermen and private structures built along the coast in Mangaluru. This year, the Dakshina Kannada district administration is keeping a close watch on Subhashnagar, Batapady, Uchila and Kaiko in Ullal and Sasihitlu, Mukka. Two dozen houses are in danger in Ullal and the local administration has urged the residents to shift to safer areas.

PIC KPN

Rajivi, a widow living with two children in Batapady near Mangaluru which is the worst affected by sea erosion in Ullal, is yet to get full compensation from the government forcing her to live in a rented house for over a year now.

BIG PICTURE

Residents at Meenakaliya on the outskirts of Mangaluru who are affected by sea erosion like every year are taking temporary measures amid raging waves of the Arabian Sea hitting the shores and damaging their houses and properties. There are around 250 houses at Meenakaliya in Baikampady, one of the beaches in Mangaluru affected by sea erosion.

Earlier, the Department of Ports had sent a proposal to install a sea wall similar to what was implemented in other areas affected by sea erosion. But the residents who are traditional fishermen had objected, saying they would not be able to anchor their boats if a sea wall is built. Instead, the locals at Meenakaliya have urged the authorities to install a Maravanthe-model breakwater system.

How to prevent sea erosion?

Prof Jayappa says beaches act as cushions and they are the playgrounds for waves. "We need to retreat as much as possible. Instead of sea walls, we need to go for green walls, using casuarina trees or ipomoea biloba, a creeper, or salt-tolerant plants," he says.

In Udupi, though sea erosion has not started because of the low intensity of rain this monsoon, the threat looms large at several spots, mainly Maravanthe, Kota and Kaup. People's representatives from different parties have visited the spots in the past here, but nothing tangible has been done to protect the land and houses of those residing near the shore. The absence of sea walls in Maravanthe causes a loss of around 50-60 metres of area every year. Last year, over 200 coconut trees were engulfed by the sea here. The road which got damaged last year is still not repaired. Around 70 houses here are located very close to the sea.

The then CM Basavaraj Bommai visited Maravanthe in July last year, but nothing has changed as officials have not taken any steps to build the protection wall. Nagaraj Kharvi, a resident of Maravanthe, says that around 200 coconut trees were lost to the sea in the past, but the department concerned does not consider it a major issue. "We don't know whom to approach to find a permanent solution," he adds.

Local fishermen, who have a better knowledge of the sea and its behaviour, say that a 'T' shaped breakwater (similar to those built at Maravanthe Beach) system on the north side of Maravanthe outer harbour would be a permanent solution. Officials in the ports and fisheries department say that the construction of such a system would need Rs 12 crore. Uday Kumar, an engineer from the department in Udupi district, says it may have to be constructed for around 1 km. A proposal has been sent to the government, he adds.

The then Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Minister S Angara had said last year that 'duck foot technology' may be suitable for places like Maravanthe to prevent sea erosion. He had said it would be implemented, but officials have not yet prepared a feasibility report. Now that the new government has come to power, it is to be seen how the issue will be tackled.

As a natural remedy, species of mangroves like Rhizophora mucronata, Avicenniaceae, Bruguiera, Sonneratiaceae Sonneratia among others are grown with the help of forest department in various parts of Udupi district. To some extent, these mangroves have helped in curbing sea erosion. But more research into this has not taken place. In Kota of Udupi, seaside residents are scared that their lives will be impacted by sea erosion as seawall is broken in some areas here. People in Kota, Kota Thattu and Kodi gram panchayats say they are affected by sea erosion, but people's representatives are silent on the issue. Annappa Kunder, a resident of Kodi, says that except the assurances given by officials, nothing has changed as every year they fear the wrath of sea erosion. Temporary sea walls, being built in bits and pieces since early 2000s, have covered 95 km along Udupi and Mangaluru coasts. But the impact of sea erosion has not reduced. Though Rs 300 crore, funded by the Asian Development Bank, has been spent on sea walls, the results are not satisfactory, officials admit.

In Uttara Kannada district, villages around Majali, Devbagh, Harwada and Rabindranath Tagore beach in Karwar taluk, Mavinkurve, Pavinkurve in Kumta, parts of Honnavar and Bhatkal have been witnessing sea erosion. Fishermen fear losing their livelihoods because of rough seas. "There is no rainfall this year, but sea erosion has already started. We only hope our livelihoods will not be affected," said Govind Ambig.

At Harwada, many houses are inundated and fishermen are living in fear. The area has been witnessing sea erosion for years. All our houses are on the beach. No fencing has been done so far. We have submitted many petitions to the government, but no action has been taken. Every year, the sea is eating into the land. If it continues, all our houses will perish," said Roshan, a fisherman at Majali.

Minister for Ports Mankal Vaidya has said the government is geared up to reach out to people in case any cyclone turns severe. "We have already begun our preparations. I have conducted a meeting with officials to prepare for the cyclone. The health and energy departments have been put on high alert. We will respond to all the problems of the fishermen," he says.

EXPRESS READ

Jagan failed to ensure law & order, says Naidu

VIJAYAWADA: Expressing concern over the spate of crimes, including setting a boy ablaze in Bapatla district, Telugu Desam Party supremo N Chandrababu Naidu blamed CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the deterioration of law and order. "Despite keeping the law and order maintenance with him, the CM has never reviewed the performance of police and no concrete steps have been taken to curb the spurt in criminal activities. The people should put an end to the atrocious government," he said. **ENS**

New political party for Brahmins: S Ve Shekher

CHENNAI: Actor and BJP member S Ve Shekher told reporters on Sunday that some people are taking efforts to float a new political party dedicated to the welfare of Brahmins and an official announcement will soon be made by the functionaries. The party plans to contest 33 Parliamentary seats in the 2024 LS polls, he said. Preliminary groundwork for launching the party, such as registering with the EC, have been completed, Shekher said. **ENS**

Actor Poojappura Ravi passes away at 86

T'PURAM: Malayalam movie and theatre actor Poojappura Ravi, aka M Raveendran Nair,

86, passed away at Marayur in Idukki on Sunday. Ravi, who made his mark with comedy and character roles, acted in around 800 movies and around 4,000 plays. 'Velu Thampi Dalawa', released in 1962, was his first film, and 'Guppy', released in 2016, his last. **ENS**

Section 144 in Raichur to 'save' water from dam

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

AS water scarcity has increased in North Karnataka, the Raichur district administration is getting water to the city through a canal by imposing prohibitory orders under Section 144 from June 17 to 27. Before releasing the water to Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal (TLBC) from Tungabhadra dam, the district administration has imposed prohibitory orders to prevent diversion of water from the canal. Presently, water is being supplied once every five days to Raichur city from the Krishna river.

To mitigate the crisis, the district administration has decided to get water from Tungabhadra reservoir through a canal. The water released from the dam will flow through TLBC for nearly 130 miles. The water will be first accumulated in the balancing reservoir at Bangarappa Kere and then will be diverted to Rampur lake reservoir. The water will then be released to Raichur city for drinking purposes.

Deputy Commissioner L Chandrashekhar Naik said, "Despite engineers being deputed for patrolling, there are possibilities of people using gauges and diverting water."

BACK TO THE SEAS

Fish for sale at the Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai after the annual fishing ban was lifted, on Sunday | PTI

Hampi varsity VC writes to govt to waive off Rs 77 lakh power bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hosapete

THE **Hampi Kannada University** has received a power bill of whopping Rs 77 lakh, some of it arrears. The university vice-chancellor has now written to Energy Minister KJ George to waive off the bill, saying the university is struggling to run due to paucity of funds. The letter has gone viral on social media and people are unhappy with the financial situation of the university.

Vice-Chancellor Paramashiva Murthy stated in the letter that since 2019, after the pandemic broke out, it has become difficult to run the university. Some bill amount had been pending and now, the total has come to over Rs 77 lakh.

In 2020, the university staff had written to the then Yediyurappa government to release around Rs 8 crore to cover the salaries of contract workers.

University administration officials said the University has been facing financial crises for a few years now. "It's a constitutional right to ask for funds to help students. Waiver of electricity bill, generated by GESCOM, is part of it. If possible, the government will help us or else we will pay the bill in some time with the permission of GESCOM officials," they added.

Guv Ravi has sadistic attitude: DMK mouthpiece

S KUMARESAN @ Chennai

MURASOLI, the party organ of the ruling DMK, has strongly condemned Tamil Nadu Governor **RN Ravi** for his remarks on continuance of V Senthil Balaji in the Cabinet. In a full-page article titled, "The sadistic attitude of the Governor of Tamil Nadu" written under pseudonym "Silanthi" (spider), Murasoli compared the situation to Kerala Governor Arif Khan's attempt to remove Kerala's Finance Minister KN Balagopal and his subsequent backtrack. The article also urged Ravi to understand the Constitutional powers bestowed upon him and elected Chief Ministers.

Amid a series of conflicts between the DMK and the Governor, Ravi has now raised concern about Senthil Balaji, thereby paving the way for yet another round of confrontation.

The full-page write-up recalled Chief Minister MK Stalin's opposition to alleged atrocities committed by the BJP and its government. According to the article, Khan had initially said, "As per Article 164, the CM shall be appointed by the Governor and other ministers shall be appointed by the governor on the advice of the CM, and the ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor."

The write-up also recalled that Khan had faced severe repercussions and later said, "Whatever advice I had to give, I have given and ultimately I accept the decision of CM Pinarayi Vijayan." The article cautioned Ravi against playing with politics of Tamil Nadu.

DMK orator sacked for remarks on Khushbu, Guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

HOURS after BJP leader and actor **Khushbu Sundar** slammed Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) orator Shivaji Krishnamoorthy for his derogatory remarks against her last week, the ruling party expelled him for "anti-party activities" on Sunday evening. Kodungaiyur police have registered a case against Krishnamoorthy and summoned for questioning.

On Sunday morning, Khushbu tweeted a video clip of Krishnamoorthy's speech, in which he makes derogatory comments about her, at a public meeting to mark the birth centenary of former chief minister M Karunanidhi in North Chennai last week.

Reacting to his remarks, she tweeted, "The crass comments of this habitual offender show the political culture prevalent in DMK. There are many like him in that rut. Abusing women, passing lewd cheap comments about them goes unchecked and is probably rewarded with more opportunities." Tagging CM M K Stalin, she said, "The more space you provide him, the more political space you will lose. Your party is becoming a safe haven for uncouth hooligans..."

Khushbu said she had taken up the matter with the National Commission for Women, of which she is a member. Slamming the DMK, she said, "This is the new Dravidian model." Meanwhile, BJP state chief K Annamalai condemned Krishnamoorthy's comments on Khushbu and on Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi. Krishnamoorthy had taken a jibe at the governor over his refusal to accept the reallocation of portfolios of minister V Senthil Balaji, after he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in the cash-for-jobs scam.

After the incident garnered criticism, DMK general secretary Duraimurugan said that Krishnamoorthy had been removed from the party due to his anti-party activities.

Odisha Rly tragedy toll now 292, Vaishnaw to visit Bahanaga

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

WITH one more injured passenger succumbing to injuries at SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack on Sunday, the death toll in the Odisha triple train tragedy went up to 292.

Hospital sources said 24-year-old Paltu Naskar from South 24 Parganas in West Bengal was admitted to the central ICU of the hospital and his condition was critical. "He had suffered multiple fractures with bleeding in internal organs. He had been on ventilator support since June 17 after his condition deteriorated. He died in the morning," sources said.

While 288 passengers travelling in Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express and Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express were killed and 920 injured on the day of accident on June 2 at Bahanaga Bazaar station, four have succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at SCB MCH so far. Of the 205 injured passengers admitted to the hospital, 45 are still under treatment. At least 12 critically injured passengers are in the ICU and the condition of two of them is critical.

As 81 bodies are still unidentified and have been kept in containers at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, the Railways has appealed relatives of the deceased people to come forward for identification. In a public notice, the railways has urged the next of kin of the deceased involved in the train crash to come forward and provide their DNA samples to establish their identity and relationship with the deceased and claim the unidentified bodies.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw is scheduled to visit Bahanaga and interact with locals on Tuesday. He is slated to felicitate people, who had suo-motu come forward and rescued hundreds of passengers risking their lives.

Sources said Vaishnaw will arrive in Odisha on a three-day visit starting Monday. He will inspect Puri railway station and review arrangements made for pilgrims for the world-famous Rath Yatra in the evening. After participating in the car festival on Tuesday forenoon, he will proceed to Bahanaga Bazaar to interact with locals. The minister will also visit Balasore district headquarters hospital and meet health and district administration officials.

EDITORIAL

Of all the liars in the world, sometimes the worst are our own fears — Rudyard Kipling

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

MANIPUR PRIORITY IS TO END VIOLENCE AND GAIN PEOPLE'S TRUST

The ethnic violence in Manipur is continuing unabated. Over a hundred people have lost their lives, and thousands have fled their homes. Properties worth crores have been destroyed. Many places of worship have been desecrated. The divide and distrust between the majority Meitei community and the tribals—Kuki-Zomi and Naga—is getting deeper. Both sides are getting increasingly segregated, with the tribals leaving the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley, and the Meiteis abandoning their homes and businesses in the hills, where the tribals are an overwhelming majority. Tension had been brewing for a while over issues like raids in the hills to stop alleged illegal cultivation of poppy and evict illegal migrants, but things boiled over after the state High Court asked the government to consider the long-pending Meitei demand to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

The Biren Singh government failed to control the spread of violence and migration of the population. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit helped calm things down, but violent attacks started again soon after. The government's 51-member peace committee to talk with community leaders and redress issues has proved to be a non-starter. Allegations are that the committee was formed unilaterally, and people's names were included without seeking their consent. Eminent theatre director Ratan Thiyam, a Meitei, withdrew from the peace committee, saying the government needs political will to bring the situation under control. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner and former chairperson of the National School of Drama also said that things would not return to normalcy unless the Centre comes into the picture. A Meitei organisation that was included in the committee also exited. So did the apex Kuki body.

The Centre's presence and actions are yet to be felt in the state. Neutral central forces must be deployed in the buffer zone to prevent attacks from both sides. Kukis believe the currently deployed Manipur commandos are biased against them. The Centre must simultaneously launch an operation to recover the looted arms and ammunition. More than 4,000 sophisticated weapons and countless ammunition have been looted, of which barely over a thousand have been recovered so far. Attacks will continue until the looted weapons are recovered. There are also allegations of bias in relief distribution that need urgent redressal. It is time the Centre moved fast to douse the raging flames in Manipur.

BJP'S ANDHRA POSER: ALLY OR NOT TO ALLY

There is a flurry of political activity in Andhra Pradesh beginning with the meeting of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu with Union Home Minister Amit Shah earlier this month, followed by the visits of the latter and BJP president J P Nadda to the state in quick succession. Now, the highly anticipated yatra of actor-turned-politician and the saffron party's ally Pawan Kalyan has begun in earnest. Be it Amit Shah, Nadda or Pawan, all of them have been strident in their criticism of YSRC supremo and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy—triggering speculation that the BJP and TDP might, after all, get together once again.

Adding grist to the rumour mills, Jagan, too, declared that he never needed, or needs, the BJP to win an election. TDP followers and sympathisers are understandably elated at the sequence of events for the simple reason that the party's prospects would be brighter vis-à-vis the YSRC if the BJP and Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena sail with it in 2024. Similarly, Pawan's fans are optimistic, as is the star himself, because 2024 is as much an existential question as a matter of pride for the actor. He needs to at least enter the portals of the Assembly after having drawn a blank in the 2019 polls. With the TDP's support, he can rest assured of a face-saving performance, if not a stellar one.

The moot question, though, is: What is in it for the BJP? It is a non-entity, much like the Congress in Andhra Pradesh. However, its great advantage lies in getting support from both the ruling YSRC and the TDP in Parliament without actually having a formal alliance with either. A section of the state BJP leaders is desperate for an encore with the TDP to get elected as legislators. There is no other way for them since the YSRC will, under no circumstances, have a formal tie-up with the BJP, given the ideological gap and voter base of the party.

Given this scenario, would the BJP central leadership, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a good rapport with Jagan, let go of a trusted anti-Congress YSRC for a few Assembly seats? Besides, do they trust Naidu to stick with them should they fall short in 2024? There are options for the BJP. It could stay neutral and retain the support of the TDP and YSRC at the Centre or ally with the TDP and still retain the YSRC's support. Nothing can be ruled out.

QUICK TAKE

FIGHT DRUGS IN VALLEY

Drugs are a growing menace in Kashmir. Young students are its latest victims. The areas near the LoC are the worst, with supplies crossing over through human carriers or drones. In Kupwara, the administration wants parents to file affidavits that their kids don't use drugs as a precondition to their admission to government schools. A right step; it should expand to the entire Valley. Preventing children from turning into addicts is the priority. But kids watch their elders take drugs and imitate them. So, it's necessary to deal with adult issues too—unemployment, suspicion, trust deficit and social anxiety.

The new Parliament will act as a bridge between our ancient civilisation and modern India, and seek to end the disconnect that existed between the two all these years

TRYST WITH OUR CIVILISATIONAL IDEAL AND DESTINY

A SURYA PRAKASH

Vice-Chairman, Executive Council, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge…". Those were the opening lines of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, at the stroke of the midnight hour of August 15, 1947, in the Central Hall of Parliament, when the British transferred power to Indians. May 28, 2023, marked India's tryst with her civilisational destiny and experience when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament House. It also marked the moment when we redeemed our pledge to keep our civilisational torch burning.

While the old Parliament House, designed by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker, had all the trappings of British architecture and symbolism, the new Parliament House designed by Bimal Patel is very, very Indian, not only in terms of architecture and design but also in terms of its aesthetics and symbolism. Thus, it will act as a bridge between our ancient civilisation and modern India, and seek to end the disconnect that existed between the two all these years.

An important part of the inaugural ceremony was the arrival of the Sengol (sceptre), the *Dharma Danda*, which symbolised authority during the Chola period. It was received by PM Modi and taken ceremonially to the new Lok Sabha and installed beside the Speaker's chair. The talk of the Sengol has surprised most Indians because its significance during the transfer of power on August 15, 1947, had been long forgotten. The facts—as recounted by the Paramacharya of the Kanchi Mutt to his disciples, as recorded in the Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam in Tanjore, and as reproduced by S Gurumurthy, Editor, *Thuglak*—have since been well publicised. It is said that when Nehru received the Sengol on the night of August 14, 1947, the transfer of power became complete. He then proceeded to the Parliament House, hoisted the national flag and delivered his historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech. Photographs of the event showing Nehru receiving the Sengol from the priests are displayed in the Mutt in Tanjore.

Many authorities have written about this including F D Karaka, and Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre in *Freedom at Midnight*. Padma Subrahmanyam translated Gurumurthy's article to English and sent it to the Prime Minister. She said that such "a profound, sacred, historic ceremony of Sengol vesting has been kept out of public knowledge and history" and requested PM Modi to make this public.

The PM was fascinated by the story of the Sengol, had it investigated and decided to retrieve it from the Allahabad Museum, where it was kept all these years, to install it in its rightful place beside the Speaker's Chair in the new Parliament House.

Collins and Lapierre tell us about the priests, the Sengol procession and the handing over to Nehru.

"They sprinkled Jawaharlal Nehru with holy water, smeared his forehead with sacred ash, laid their Sengol on his arms and draped him in the Cloth of God. To the man who had never ceased to proclaim the horror the word 'religion' inspired in him, their rite was a tiresome manifestation of all he deplored in his nation. Yet he submitted to it with almost cheerful humility. It was as if that proud rationalist had instinctively understood that in the awesome tasks awaiting him no possible source of aid, not even the occult he so scornfully dismissed, was to be totally ignored."

The description of this ceremony by Collins and Lapierre gives us a clue as to why Nehru, who had a disdain for Hindu traditions, had the Sengol packed off to Ananda Bhavan in Allahabad and then to the Allahabad Museum, and ensured that it was absurdly classified as a "walking stick"!

Thus, the new Parliament, in terms of architecture, aesthetics, design and symbolism, connects modern India with the civilisation of Bharat, something which got disconnected during the colonial period and later during the post-Independence phase. Following Lord Macaulay's infamous *Minute* (presented almost 200 years ago), in which he advised the British government to open schools and teach the "natives" the English language, mores and manners, the process of delinking India with her past began and was carried on systematically for decades. Unfortunately, this continued post-Independence because of Nehru's attitude towards India's religious traditions and culture.

For example, this stanza from the *Rig Veda* which says *"Ekam Sat, Vipra Bahudah Vadanti"* (The truth is one, the wise explain it in many ways) constitutes the very foundation of our civilisational thought because it signifies the civilisation's harmony with diversity and with different shades of opinion. Is this not what democracy and secularism is all about? There are dozens of such examples.

Further, it is now well established through historical research and archaeological findings that there were *sabhas* and *samitis* in republics in India which elected the Head of State, and *sanghas* which had refined parliamentary practices like question time, proxy voting and voting through ballots (made of wood) 2,500 years ago.

Prime Minister Modi is, therefore, right in saying that India is the "Mother of Democracy". No other Prime Minister felt the need to emphasise this truth, and consequently, generations of Indians have grown up without any knowledge of the democratic practices in ancient India, believing that the British taught us democracy and parliamentary practices.

The interiors of the new Parliament building will seek to correct this and aim to bridge the prevailing gap in our understanding of ancient Indian traditions. It has displays of democratic traditions from the Vedic ages, lofty philosophical assertions like *"Vasudaiva Kutumbakam"* (The World is One Family), and parliamentary practices in Hindu kingdoms and Buddhist *sanghas* in the corridors. The Lok Sabha chamber will have the peacock (the national bird) motif and the Rajya Sabha chamber will have the lotus (national flower) motif.

All this has been possible because of PM Modi's vision, the extraordinary commitment of the Ministry of Culture and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), and the art historians, eminent archaeologists and architects who were members of a high-power committee which oversaw the art installations. Thus, the new Parliament House will help India reconnect with ancient Bharat, which was the cradle of civilisation and democracy.

(suryamedia@gmail.com)

THREE MAGIC ARROWS UNDER THE PIPAL TREE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

It's normal in Delhi to see cars with a red sticker on the back window, of a drawn bow with three arrows pointing up against it. Below that is written in Hindi, *'Haare ka sahara'*, meaning 'Help of the helpless' or 'Help of the defeated'. 'Defeated' here means those struggling with life or dealing with grief, disappointment and loss.

The sticker pays homage to Baba Khatushyamji. His chief temple is in Sikar district, Rajasthan. I have been there and saw devotees, both rich and poor—from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi-NCR and other regions—queue patiently for hours to have *darshan* of the image of Khatushyamji's head. Some burst into tears, and even made fond personal offerings like birthday cakes and bouquets of choice flowers, as they might for a member of the family.

But who was Khatushyamji? Both the *Mahabharata* and the *Skanda Purana* are said to speak of him. He was Barbarika, the grandson of the Pandava prince Bhima, and Queen Hidimbi, the forest royal. His father was their son Ghatotkacha, and his mother was princess Ahilavati. She was the daughter of the serpent lord Bhashaka, who had a place of honour on no less than Lord Shiva's neck. With this pedigree, Prince Barbarika was inevitably raised to be a formidable warrior. He was also taught to be kind, gentle and polite when not training at arms. This combination of his prowess as a fighter and his gentle, knightly character delighted the *Ashta Deva* or guardians of the eight directions, who keep a close eye on things. They decided to give Barbarika a suitable present, and gifted him a bow with three magic arrows.

When news came of the great battle likely to be fought between the Pandavas and Kauravas, Prince Ghatotkacha set off at once to help his father Bhima. Thereafter, further news came that the battle would take place on the field of Kurukshetra, all attempts at diplomacy having failed, even those by Sri Krishna, cousin to both warring factions.

Barbarika asked his mother for permission to join the battle and she agreed. But carried away by emotion, she asked him, as a chivalrous knight, to always fight on the weaker side, which Barbarika promised to do with the most solemn oaths. He then set out on his favourite horse, a rare blue dun, taking his bow and magic arrows.

A few leagues short of Kurukshetra, Barbarika stopped to rest under a large pipal tree and took a nap. When he woke up, he found himself being critically regarded by an old priest with curiously bright eyes, his hair in a curly white knot.

"A warrior with only three arrows?" said the priest without preamble.

"These are special arrows, sir," said Barbarika courteously, for he was used to speaking the truth.

"What can you do with them?" smiled the priest.

"The first one will mark all my targets, the second will mark those I want saved and the third will deliver all my targets to me," said Barbarika.

"Do show me how, with the leaves of this pipal tree," invited the priest.

"Certainly, sir. The first and third are enough for that," said Barbarika, stringing his bow.

ASHWIN PRASATH

Barbarika stopped to rest under a large pipal tree and took a nap. When he woke up, he found himself being critically regarded by an old priest with curiously bright eyes

The first arrow flew out and marked all the leaves. But it did not return to the quiver. Instead it hovered over the priest's foot.

The priest laughed and removed his foot. Sure enough, a leaf lay below it that he had deliberately stepped on. The third arrow then rounded up all the leaves at Barbarika's feet.

"Marvellous," said the priest. "Your targets cannot hope to hide from you. You must be headed to Kurukshetra. Whose side will you fight on?"

"Sir, I am pledged to my mother to always fight on the weaker side," said Barbarika. "I'm told that the Pandavas have only seven divisions while the Kauravas have eleven. Also, Prince Bhima is my grandfather, though I've never met him."

"What?" said the priest. "With your supernatural powers? I don't think you have thought it through at all and neither did your good mother, although I honour her intention. Any side you oppose will automatically become the weaker side. You will then have to keep switching sides. Not one person will be left on the battlefield. Is that what you want?"

"No sir," said Barbarika, shaken by pity and horror.

"Best not to fight then. May I ask alms of you before I go?" said the priest. "Anything you please, sir," said Barbarika.

"Very well, soldier, give me your head. The greatest warrior must be sacrificed and you undoubtedly are he," said the priest without missing a beat.

Shocked, Barbarika looked back at him. "You are not what you seem, sir. Won't you tell me who you really are?" he said wonderingly, without a trace of anger at the outrageous demand.

The priest raised his eyebrows faintly at this unexpected response. He cast a smile of peculiar sweetness at the gentle giant.

"Do you know me, soldier?" he said quietly, and in place of the priest, Barbarika beheld the Blue God, lithe and luminous, a peacock feather in his dark, curly hair.

"Krishna," said Barbarika, unable to say another word. His eyes overflowed and he knelt before Krishna, reverently touching his feet.

"Ask something first of me, unselfish soul," said Krishna gently, placing a hand on Barbarika's bowed head.

"I have seen you and that is enough for me. But since I cannot fight, may I somehow watch the battle after my death?" asked Barbarika in an apologetic voice. "My interest as a soldier consumes me, and they're family."

"Your head shall overlook Kurukshetra and your soul will come to me after the battle and be part of me always," promised Krishna. And so it was.

This extraordinary story was told thousands of years ago. Yet the people of India never forgot Barbarika. The thought of him went straight to their hearts and lodged there—and they still dote on him and pray that he should fight on their side.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Express Dialogues

Very happy to see the *Express Dialogues* interview with V P Gangadharan! Cancer attacked me thrice and Dr VPG saved my life. His one touch was a great solace during chemotherapy. He told me willpower is very important. Thank you *NIE* for this interview.
P G Iyer, Palakkad

Joseph's contributions

Apropos of *K M Joseph, a judge who strove to uphold rule of law* (June 18). As the Uttarakhand HC chief justice, Joseph quashed the imposition of President's rule in the state in 2016. He said a re-attempt by the Centre would be "a travesty of justice". Joseph really strove to uphold the rule of law.
P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Pataliputra parleys

This is with reference to *Pataliputra parleys to just meet and greet* (June 17). The article has uncovered the ideological conflicts and ambitions among Opposition leaders. But one thing is clear: State BJP leaders cannot completely rely on Modi's charisma any longer. The Patna conclave is the last hope for the opposition parties to take tangible decisions and unseat the saffron party.
K Jayanthi, Chennai

USA visit

Modi is about to go to America next week, but this week, the house of Union minister Rajkumar Singh was vandalised, and a portion was torched by a mob in Manipur. With one state burning, would it be good for Modi to visit America? The whole country is saying: "Where are you, why are you not saying anything?" When the house of a minister isn't safe, what will the situation of others be?
Abdulmatin, Howrah

Biparjoy management

Apropos of *No life lost in cyclone, it is a major achievement: Shah* (June 18). The Centre and state evacuated over a lakh people from vulnerable areas. The entire credit rests with NDRF teams who are ever-ready. Now starts the evaluation of loss of properties and suitable compensations. The management of Biparjoy left no scope for opposition parties to make a mountain out of this catastrophe.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Sports' effects

Apropos of *Quote Corner* (June 18). The FIFA president has rightly said there is no football if there is racism. I couldn't help but recall George Orwell who said modern sports is nothing but war minus shooting. It is a blatant lie to say sports fosters good relations between countries. If you want to foster enmity and acrimony, you better arrange a football match.
V Janakiraman, Tiruvarur

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 59, No. 144 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Employment in PSUs of the country has come down from 16.9 lakh in 2014 to only 14.6 lakh in 2022. Do jobs decrease in a progressive country?

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
Crisis handling by BJP isn't incompetent but smacks of inhuman callousness. PM doesn't have time to meet the waiting party delegation from Manipur

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
Our double engine govt in Assam has done well in catalysing this growth momentum by extensively focusing on new infra and medical institutions

Emergency a dark period: Modi in Mann ki Baat

PM recalls oppression unleashed against people, saying the country should not forget crimes against freedom

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

> **We cannot forget June 25, 1975... Supporters of democracy were tortured so much during that time (Emergency), that even today it makes one tremble in fear. We must also glance through those crimes which endanger the freedom of the country. This will make it easier for today's young generation to understand the meaning and significance of democracy**
>
> Prime Minister Narendra Modi

A couple of days before leaving for his US trip, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday sought to stir the political pot in the country alleging that the people who supported democracy were tortured during the Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government on June 25, 1975.

Describing the 'Emergency', a "dark period" of India's history, the PM said that June 25 cannot be forgotten.

Speaking at the 102nd episode of his radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat, the PM said India is the mother of democracy where democratic ideals are paramount as the Constitution is supreme.

Taking a jibe, albeit obliquely at the Congress, the PM said: "We cannot forget June 25. This is the very day when Emergency was imposed. It was a dark period in the history of India. Lakhs of people opposed Emergency with their full might."

The PM's remarks against the Emergency came at a time when the Congress in particular has often accused his government of damaging the vitality of democracy. "The supporters of democracy were tortured so much during that time, that even today it makes one tremble in fear."

The PM referred to some books, including 'Torture of Political Prisoners in India", published during Emergency and asked the people to read those books, including his own titled 'Sangharsh Mein Gujarat, to know about the tyranny during Emergency.

"Many books have been written on the atrocities, punishments meted out by the police and administration. I also had the opportunity to write a book named 'Sangharsh mein Gujarat' at that time. A few days ago, I came across another book written on the Emergency 'Torture of Political Prisoners in India,'" the PM said

"This book describes how, at that time, the government was treating the guardians of democracy most cruelly", the Prime Minister said.

He suggested that when the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the people should know about such crimes. "We must also glance through those crimes which endanger the freedom of the country. This will make it easier for today's young generation to understand the meaning and significance of democracy," the PM said.

The PM in his monthly radio 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast also lauded the country's collective efforts to tackle natural disasters. He said after the devastating earthquake two decades ago, people had expressed doubts on whether Kutch would be able to recover from destruction. "But the people of Kutch recovered through their collective efforts", he said.

Prime Minister Modi said that he is deeply moved whenever he sees efforts of the common man and his hard work that becomes a part of collective willpower.

"Be it the loftiest goal, the toughest challenge, the collective might of the people of India, the collective willpower, provides a solution to every challenge. A few days ago, cyclone Biparjoy caused destruction in Kutch. But the courage and preparedness with which the people of Kutch fought such a dangerous cyclone is equally unprecedented," PM Modi said.

The PM cited initiatives of many people including Tulsiram Yadav of Uttar Pradesh who built 40 'pokhar' (ponds) in the area for water conservation.

He also remembered Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, saying a lot can be learnt from his management skills, especially on water management.

He also lauded an initiative of social organisation 'Nikshay-Mitras' for the elimination of tuberculosis.

He also hailed achievements of India in sports, including Women's Junior Asia Cup, saying India was making its presence felt in every field.

On the June 21 International Yoga Day, which is observed every year, Prime Minister Modi urged the people to adopt Yoga to make it a part of their daily routine.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
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Rajasthan Redux

BAGHEL WANTS CHHATTISGARH CONG CHIEF REPLACED

Simmering tensions between Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and state Congress president Mohan Markam have come to a boil. Sources said the chief minister has asked the party's central leadership to replace Markam with a leader who can work more closely with him to prepare the party for the upcoming assembly elections. Markam, a young tribal MLA from a constituency not far from the chief minister's, has fallen out with the latter. Baghel suspects the PCC chief has joined hands with his bete noire, T S Singh Deo, who had lost a closely-contested race for the chief ministership. There were reports that the party high command had promised Singh Deo the second half of the CM's tenure. There has, however, been no official confirmation on this. Singh Deo and Baghel have since had a running feud. With the party appearing set to win a second term, largely due to Baghel's popularity, the chief minister does not want to take any chances by having a PCC chief who may create trouble for him in the election. Baghel's demand has put the Congress leadership in a quandary. The party cannot axe a tribal from the post on the eve of the election. The state has a large tribal population. It has, therefore, asked Baghel first to create a vacancy for Markam in the Cabinet. A hunt has simultaneously started for another tribal leader of equal standing as a substitute.

Image Makeover

PM FIELDS RAJNATH SINGH FOR MUSLIM OUTREACH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has had back-to-back meetings with Muslim intellectuals, clergy and common citizens over the last week. Sources said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asked him to reach out to the community to correct any misgivings about his government. Rajnath met a group of Muslims comprising a former chief justice, chiefs of prominent dargahs and heads of leading Muslim institutions and organisations. He then visited the prominent Islamic seminary, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, in Lucknow. Singh also acted on the complaints of Muslim shop owners targeted by right-wing mobs in Uttarkashi. He spoke to Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and facilitated his meeting with Muslim leaders to discuss and resolve the issue. Sources said that in the meetings between the defence minister and the leaders of the minority community, issues such as the proposed uniform civil code were discussed. Meanwhile, a two-year-old study by the Pew Research Centre has reappeared on social media. According to this widely-shared report, 98% of Indian Muslims say they are free to practice their religion in India. Two per cent said they were "not too free" to practice their religion, with almost no one answering, "not at all free". Rajnath's outreach and the Pew report's resurfacing are seen as the government's attempts to counter a campaign in the US to portray it as anti-minority, especially on the eve of the Prime Minister's state visit.

Gita Press, publisher of religious texts, to get Gandhi Peace Prize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

Former President Ram Nath Kovind with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at the centenary celebrations of Gita Press in Gorakhpur in June last year | TWITTER

THE Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021 will be conferred on Gita Press, Gorakhpur.

The Jury headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after due deliberations on June 18, 2023 unanimously decided to select Gita Press as the recipient of the award for its outstanding contribution towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violent and other Gandhian methods, stated a press statement issued by the cultural ministry on Sunday.

Established in 1923, Gita Press is one of the world's largest publishers, having published 41.7 crore books in 14 languages, including 16.21 crore Shrimad Bhagvad Gita. "The institution has never relied on advertisement in its publications, for revenue generation. Gita Press along with its affiliated organizations, strives for the betterment of life and the well being of all," stated the ministry.

Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by Government in 1995, on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as a tribute to the ideals espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. The award carries an amount of ₹1 crore, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft or handloom item.

The past awardees include organisations such as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ramakrishna Mission, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Akshaya Patra, Bengaluru, Ekal Abhiyan Trust, India and Sulabh International, New Delhi.

It has also been awarded to luminaries such as Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, Julius Nyerere, Former President of Tanzania, AT Ariyaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka, Gerhard Fischer, Federal Republic of Germany, Baba Amte, John Hume, Ireland, Vaclav Havel, former President of Czechoslovakia, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Yohei Sasakawa (Japan).

Recent awardees include Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Oman (2019) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (2020), Bangladesh.

Kharge, Rahul to attend Opposition meeting on June 23

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

AMID report of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visiting Tamil Nadu to meet his counterpart M K Stalin, state Congress president Akhilesh Prasad Singh on Saturday confirmed that Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi would reach the state capital on June 23 to attend a meeting of Opposition leaders.

Sources in JD(U) said that chief minister Nitish Kumar is scheduled to leave for Tamil Nadu on June 20 to meet his counterpart M K Stalin to discuss the strategy for Opposition parties meeting scheduled to be held in Patna on June 23. Kumar is expected to wind-up his one day tour and to return to Patna on June 21.

A senior JD(U) leader, who is close to Nitish, revealed that the meet was scheduled soon after Stalin had invited him to Tamil Nadu. "The reason behind meeting the two leaders ahead of Opposition parties meeting is obvious," he said, adding that the June 23 meeting would be a historic one.

Congress president Singh told media persons that besides Mallikarjun and Rahul, Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal will also participate in the meeting. Earlier, JD (U) national chief Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh and deputy chief minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had also made an announcement about both Kharge and Rahul attending the Opposition leaders' conclave in Patna.

Soon after landing in the state capital, senior Congress leaders will drive straight to the state Congress headquarters, Sadaqat Ashram and will meet the party workers.

The opposition leaders' meeting which was earlier scheduled to be held on June 12 was postponed to June 23 as Rahul was on the US tour even as Kharge was also unable to participate in the meeting.

Jet engine deal to boost India's airpower

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE much-talked-about General Electric F414 fighter aircraft engines could majorly add to India's airpower and take forward indigenous fighter aircraft programmes.

Sources say there is a high possibility that, in addition to the other defence-related deals, an agreement on manufacturing GE F414 will also be made. The deal is likely to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US, which will eventually lead to the transfer of technology.

In a sign of affirmation of the deal, added the sources, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has already been earmarked to partner with General Electric for the manufacture of the F414. The HAL is the nodal aviation manufacturing organisation having the experience and the necessary infrastructure.

Calling it an important deal in waiting, Ravi Gupta, former DRDO scientist, said the deal can add to the punch which needs a lot of focus.

"To date the US has not given such high-end technology to anyone. Let's wait and watch," Gupta said. "To make the deal a success it should be binding on the US that it would not pull out of it in between and the transfer of technology should be in totality."

HAL TO PARTNER WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC

In a sign of affirmation of the deal, HAL has already been earmarked to partner with General Electric for the manufacture of the F414. The HAL is the nodal aviation manufacturing organisation having the experience and the necessary infrastructure. India has lacked in engine-related technology. The IAF is already down to around 30 combat Squadrons as against a sanctioned strength of 42

India has lacked in engine-related technology and with time, it will be sought even more as the Air Force is already down to around 30 combat Squadrons as against a sanctioned strength of 42. While the GE-F414 engines are to be fitted in the Light Combat Aircraft Mk2, the work on twin-engine deck-based fighters is also proceeding.

The first batch of the 40 LCA Tejas inducted in 2016 is fitted with a GE F404 engine bought from General Electric.

"India has no dearth of talent and potential but lacks in funds and resources. Our Work on the Kaveri engine programme would have succeeded," says Gupta.

"Even today we don't have a test-bedding engine facility in India and to test the thrust produced by the Kaveri prototypes, they were sent to Russia," he said. Much is going on in terms of adding thrust to Kaveri engine in France.

It was in December 2021 that Defence Minister Rajnath talked about an agreement between France and India for the indigenous manufacturing of an engine in collaboration with an Indian company under strategic partnership.

Engine manufacturing involves complex metallurgy and is acknowledged as the weakest link in India's 'Make in India' drive. India's Kaveri engine programme has been frequently hitting roadblocks.

The Defence Minister had said it was due to national security concerns that India wanted indigenous production. "India can't be dependent on foreign technologies, especially after the kind of security challenges we have faced. I need not mention what kind of challenges India has faced," said Rajnath. Stressing self-reliance, he said, "We have conveyed to friendly countries that keeping India's national security challenges in mind, we want to manufacture defence products, weapons and ammunition in India."

International Yoga Day events across Saudi cities a big hit

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

Participants at a yoga event in Saudi Arabia recently | EXPRESS

THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is gearing up to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 in the heart of Riyadh city. The Indian diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia has promoted and organised several yoga (considered as a sport in the country) at camps, schools and colleges as part of Quality of Life and health programming under Vision 2030.

"On June 16, the Indian community in Saudi Arabia celebrated yoga under 'Disha Yoga Meet' at Real Madrid Stadium in Riyadh. More than 2,000 yoga enthusiasts joined the event which was attended by diplomats from other missions and also by Saudi Arabian Yoga instructor and Padma Awardee, Nouf Marwaai who is also the President of Saudi Yoga committee," Indian Ambassador to KSA, Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan told this paper adding that similar events were organised by Disha at Jeddah and Dammam which saw participation of 1,000 yoga enthusiasts.

There are many other cities across KSA that are celebrating Yoga Day including Al Jubail, Al Madinah, Al Munawawarah, Macce, Taif, Al Bahah, Abha, Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah and Najran. Nouf Marwaai, was awarded India's fourth largest civilian award the Padma Shri in 2018. She is the founder of Arab Yoga Foundation in KSA which has taught Yoga to over 10,000 people and trained over 700 people to teach yoga.

"I would like to thank the leadership of Saudi Arabia for embracing yoga and permitting it to be practiced all across the Kingdom," the Ambassador said. It was only in 2017 that Saudi was formally and officially introduced to yoga, back then it was taking baby steps to the practice through virtual introductory lessons. Six years and countless initiatives later, Saudi Arabia's national team is a part of their first ever international contest at Mt. Everest International Yoga Championship that was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from June 8-10.

What would have seemed like a distant dream in KSA a few years ago, has become a reality now as more and more people are practising yoga, said the Indian envoy.

> **More than 2,000 yoga enthusiasts joined the event which was attended by diplomats from other missions and by Saudi Arabian Yoga instructor and Padma Awardee, Nouf Marwaai**
>
> Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan, Indian Ambassador to KSA

WATER-TRAINING
Over 4.80 lakh women in rural areas of UP trained for testing water quality while around 7.50 lakh youth have been trained for plumbing and other skills under an initiative of the Jal Shakti Ministry in the state.

04 HURT IN BUS ACCIDENT IN MUMBAI

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	32	27	Mumbai	34	29
Bhopal	38	25	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	32	25	Patna	43	31
Amritsar	39	28	Lucknow	42	31
Chennai	37	29	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	37	29	Imphal	28	22
Srinagar	29	14	Chandigarh	40	27

U'Khand to raise marriageable age of girls under UCC

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN Uttarakhand, the marriageable age of girls is likely to be increased whereas an in-depth study is being undertaken to ban traditions like 'halala' and 'iddat'. Both these issues are being seriously considered by the expert committee drafting the Uniform Civil Code in the state.

The final report of the draft will be submitted by the committee to the government within the next fortnight. Senior member of the Uniform Civil Code drafting committee and former IAS Shatrughan Singh told this newspaper, "The committee has also received suggestions that in case of death of an employed son, his parents are eligible for compensation apart from his wife. Even if the wife re-marries, then also they should have a share in the compensation received on the death of the husband. "In such a case, if the wife dies, her parents have no support, and then the responsibility of their maintenance should be with the husband. The committee is also brainstorming on all these suggestions," said Shatrughan Singh.

Speaking to this newspaper, 'Shahar Qazi' Mohammad Ahmed Qasmi strongly objected to the suggestions saying, "No one has the right to interfere in Quran Sharif, similarly no one has the right to interfere in 'iddat' and 'halala'.

"The reason behind the 'observation' of the 'Iddat' period is to find out whether the woman is pregnant or not and accept the certainty of paternity, the Uttarakhand government, central government or any authority has no right to interfere in this sensitive decision related to Shariat and culture of Muslim society", Qasmi added. "There is no acceptance in many Muslim countries on a controversial issue like 'halala', its end is in the interest of the society," BJP spokesperson Ravinder Kumar said.

UCC suggestions
- Ban on polygamy in the state
- Live-in relationship to be declared and parents informed
- Girls to get equal share in ancestral property
- Adoption for all
- Equal grounds for divorce should apply to both husband and wife

Mann a CM or pilot, asks Shah in Punjab

Sounds poll bugle in Haryana, flays previous Congress govt for keeping mum on terrorism

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

HITTING out at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that sometimes he wondered whether Mann is a Chief Minister or a pilot, as he spends all his time touring with Arvind Kejriwal across the country.

"On the other hand, the law and order situation of the state has gone from bad to worse and illegal drug trade was on the rise. But the CM has no time." Shah was addressing a rally in Gurdaspur as part of BJP's public outreach 'Sampark se Samarthan' to mark the completion of nine years of the Modi government.

"In my life, I have not seen a government like the one led by AAP which makes hollow promises," said Shah. "The chief minister has only one job: If Kejriwal is Chennai-bound, then the CM goes to Delhi in the aircraft to take him to Chennai. If he (Kejriwal) has to go to Kolkata, then again Mann takes the aircraft to Kolkata. Kejriwal's countrywide tour is conducted by the Punjab CM," said the home minister.

"Often I wonder whether he is a chief minister or a pilot. His entire time is consumed by Kejriwal's tours. As a result, the law and order in Punjab has gone from bad to worse," Shah said.

"People are not safe in Punjab. Drug smuggling is increasing. The problems of farmers are being ignored. However, the chief minister has no time. The oppression of SCs has also increased. A Punjab cabinet minister has been involved in the sexual exploitation of an SC. But no action has been taken."

Attacking the AAP government over its poll promises, Shah said: "Mann and Kejriwal had promised ₹1,000 to every woman in the state, but they are still waiting for that. The promise of ₹51,000 for the marriage of poor girls is nowhere to be seen," Shah said.

"Mann only knows how to issue full-page advertisements. I understand advertisements of the Punjab government in the state, but these advertisements appear in other states, which is depleting Punjab's treasury and voters will take note of it during elections."

BJP MP from Gurdaspur Sunny Deol did not attend Shah's rally as his son Karan Deol got married today in Mumbai with his long-time girlfriend Drisha Acharya.

Shah listed various achievements of the Modi government at the Centre in nine years, saying India is now known as a growth engine. Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat also attended the rally.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a party rally in Sirsa on Sunday | PTI

Shah hits out at Hooda for graft and favouritism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

SOUNDING the BJP's poll bugle in Haryana for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections followed by the state assembly polls, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the previous UPA government stayed mum when terrorists from Pakistan beheaded our soldiers, but Modi government gave befitting reply for Uri and Pulwama attacks.

He also slammed the previous Congress government led by Bhupinder Singh Hooda as Government of three "Ds" (darbaris' (courtiers), damad (son-in-law) and dealers.

Addressing the 'Gauravshali Bharat' rally at Sirsa in Haryana as part of the BJP's outreach campaign to mark the completion of nine years of the Modi government, Shah targeted the previous UPA government at the Centre, as he said that nine years ago terrorists used to come from Pakistan and behead our soldiers, but Manmohan and Sonia sarkar kept mum. He targeted Congress, alleging scams worth ₹12 lakh crore under party-led UPA government.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
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Congress eyes 9 LS seats in 2024 polls

Elated over the victory in Karnataka Assembly polls, Congress party is eying on a larger share of seats in 2024 Lok Sabha polls as State Congress chief Bandhu Tirkey after his return from Delhi, has claimed on 9 out of a total of 12 Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand. According to Tirkey, since the grand old party has already contested on nine Lok Sabha seats earlier, there is nothing new in it. Reacting on Tirkey's statement, JMM also said that the party wishes to contest on all 14 seats, but when we are in alliance with other parties, such decisions are taken by the party chiefs after reaching a consensus.

Forest fires decrease up to 90% in tiger reserve

Forest fires in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) this year have decreased up to 90 per cent as compared to the numbers recorded during the last few years. Measures taken by the forest officials have ultimately led to a significant decrease of forest fires. According to forest officials, over 2,000 incidents of forest fires were reported last year in PTR, causing significant damage to the flora and fauna in the region. Less forest fires were reported this year due to the awareness campaign in PTR asking villagers to sweep area under the 'mahua' trees so that they don't have to set leaves on fire.

Water-repellent jute to save grains from decay

Researchers at IIT-ISM in Dhanbad have developed water-repellent biodegradable jute to save food grains from decay and protect the adverse environmental impact of plastic bags. They used a silane-based coating (silane coating is a technologically advanced process that creates a protective barrier to improve the longevity of materials) to make the jute water-repellent. The research was completed in two and a half years and an application for the patent of same was made in November last year. The water-repellent, but biodegradable jute has a low carbon footprint as compared to plastic sacks or bags.

Uddhav dares PM to visit Manipur

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

SHIV Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his scheduled visit to the US and asked why he was going abroad instead of visiting Manipur to resolve the crisis in the violence-hit north-eastern state.

Uddhav was addressing the plenary of its party's office-bearers in Mumbai, a day ahead of the party's foundation day celebrations on June 19.

"Our Manipur is burning and our PM is going to the US to give a lecture to a paid audience. Amit Shah has also failed as home minister; he could not bring peace in Manipur. I ask them to send their ED and CBI and see whether they could help him," he said.

"Today, I do not have enough soldiers but all of them are loyal and committed. It is better to lead loyal soldiers than a big army of traitors. The war is fought on the basis of loyalty and commitment," Thackeray said. He said in the medieval period, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj plundered East India's company's business centre Surat.

Top doc shifted as death toll crosses 50 in UP's Ballia due to heat wave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

THE Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) of Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district hospital was removed allegedly after he made a careless remark on the deaths of over 50 patients in the last three days. The deaths come amid the heatwave conditions in the region.

Meanwhile, a team of the health department from Lucknow was at the district hospital to ascertain the cause of deaths of over 54 patients admitted here, officials said on Sunday.

However, Ballia Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Jayant Kumar has said that only two people have died due to heat stroke in the district till Sunday. According to officials, over 400 patients were admitted to the hospital from June 15 to June 17 and all patients who died were above 60 years of age. "As per records of the district hospital, of the 54 deaths, 40 per cent of the patients had fever, while 60 per cent were suffering from other diseases. So far, only two persons have died due to heat stroke in the district," CMO Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) of the district hospital, Dr Divakar Singh, was removed and sent to Azamgarh, allegedly after he made a careless remark about the cause of deaths. Dr S K Yadav has been given the charge of CMS, a senior official said.

The hospital is admitting over 125 - 135 patients daily, CMS Yadav said. "On June 15, over 154 patients were admitted to the district hospital, of which 23 patients died due to various reasons. While 20 patients died on June 16, 11 passed away on the following day. They were all aged above 60 years. With the patients admitting here on the rise, the hospital is under immense pressure," he added.

District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar said that the number of beds at the district hospital has been increased to accommodate more patients. Kumar also added, "CMS Dr Divakar Singh has been sent to Azamgarh, since he gave wrong information about death figures." Ballia, with the entire central and eastern UP, is reeling under sultry weather. As per the India Meteorological Department, the maximum temperature in Ballia was recorded at 42.2 degrees Celsius (4.7 notches above normal) on Friday (June 16), when 20 patients.

"As per records of the district hospital, of the 54 deaths, 40 per cent of patients had fever, while 60 per cent were suffering from other diseases. So far, only two persons have died due to heat stroke

Dr Jayant Kumar, Ballia Chief Medical Officer (CMO)

Biparjoy fallout: Many districts in Rajasthan face flood-like situation

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

CYCLONE Biparjoy, which originated from the Arabian Sea, is wreaking havoc in Rajasthan after Gujarat. Due to its effects, heavy rains have continued in many areas of the desert state since Saturday afternoon, causing flood-like conditions in a few districts of south-west Rajasthan. Heavy rains have disrupted life in several districts, including Barmer, Sirohi, Banswara, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Pali, Ajmer, and Kota. Some areas in these districts have received 10 to 13 inches of rainfall so far.

Several areas have been submerged due to the breach of the Surava dam in Sanchore, Jalore district. As a result of the dam breaking, the water level in the Narmada Lift Canal has also risen, leading to its breach. Currently, the city of Sanchore is facing the most danger. Efforts are being made to evacuate the city as soon as information about the dam breach was received on Saturday night.

Similarly in Barmer district, two cousins drowned in the pond of Gangasara village, under the jurisdiction of Sedwa police station. In Baghota village near Rajsamand, a young man died after being buried under a rock. In Kelwa village, Rajsamand, a woman died when the balcony of her house collapsed. So far, a total of six people have died.

Flooded street due to heavy rainfall caused by Biparjoy in Sanchore

Meanwhile, rainy season has commenced in Jaipur since Sunday morning. The weather has changed due to heavy rains in Dausa and Alwar districts, as well as in the city of Jaipur.

According to the Meteorological Center Jaipur, the impact of the cyclone will be observed in the surrounding districts, including Ajmer, Jaipur, Tonk, and Sawai Madhopur, until tomorrow morning.

Smugglers in Punjab send opium via couriers to overseas destinations

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN the latest fad among drug smugglers, opium is being smuggled from Punjab to the USA and Canada via courier. They hide the drugs in clothes — stitching it to jeans, coats, traditional wear, lenghas — and in eatables such as ladoos and chyawanprash which are sent to these countries.

In the last couple of months the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has registered six cases in which the contraband was being smuggled through these methods via courier . The Punjab Police has registered similar cases.

Sources said that the NCB has in the past few months detected a new trend in smuggling of drugs from the state, the smugglers who are either unemployed and are in some business are sending opium in small quantity to the USA and Canada by using innovative methods as the contraband is stitched in clothes; in sleeves of men's coats, in jeans around the pockets, in traditional dress…*lenghas* by using carbon paper and in soles of the shoes. Apart from that, the opium is sent in ladoos, stuffed inside them. While in another interesting case, the Haryana Police said it was inside a one kg box of chyawanprash on the lower bottom in a packet.

A senior official on condition of anonymity said, "The opium is bought from Jharkhand by the smugglers at nominal rates and then smuggled to Punjab, mainly Ludhiana, and sold at around ₹3 lakh a kg. It is then put in small quantities, packed and sent abroad mainly to USA and Canada. In one case, we found only 2 kgs, 80 grams, in another case, we found 512 grams. They play smart and try to make sure the contraband is no detected, as three persons arrested in six cases registered by the NCB."

"The addresses of the courier consignment in the US and Canada seems to be correct but have to be verified by the law enforcement authorities there, but is many cases, the addresses of the persons sending these couriers from here (India) are fake," he added.

Sources said that as NCB caught six such cases and it tipped off Punjab Police about four similar cases. In March this year Ludhiana Police registered a case against a sender of a courier Narinder Singh of Ibrahimpur village in Hoshiarpur on the complaint of the courier company official.

While last month Haryana police booked a Punjab resident for allegedly trying to send 422 and 420 grams of opium to a person in USA by hiding it in two packets inside the boxes of Chyawanprash that he had booked via courier.

Drug stitched with jeans, coats, shoes

The contraband is stitched in clothes; in sleeves of men's coats, in jeans around the pockets, in traditional dress...lenghas by using carbon paper and in soles of the shoes. Apart from that, the opium is sent in ladoos, stuffed inside them. While in another interesting case, the Haryana Police said it was inside a one kg box of chyawanprash on the lower bottom in a packet.

WILLOW POWER

Kashmiri bats set to begin their international innings

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

KASHMIR willow bat has after a century gained international recognition as the number of cricket playing nations picking up bats from the Valley has risen significantly. This year the Kashmir willow bat will debut in One Day International (ODI) World Cup.

Players of six international teams, West Indies, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Oman and UAE, who would be competing in 50-over cricket world cup (including qualifiers) to be played in India later this year, would be playing with the Kashmir willow bat.

GR8 Sports, a local company in the Halmula- Sangam area of Anantnag, has helped change the fate of the cricket bat industry in the Kashmir Valley. "Kashmir has been making bats for over 100 years but it was hardly marketed to international customers until now. Companies used to buy Kashmir willow bats without labels and branded them as their own on before selling," Fawzul, Fawzul Kabir, owner of GR8, said.

Bats being manufactured in a factory in Kashmir. | ZAHOOR PUNJABI & PTI

The Kashmir bat, according to Fawzul, is lighter, has more power and is much cheaper than English willow. In order to reach here, he had to sell 26 kanals of land and other assets to bring Kashmir willow bats at par with international standards.

The Kashmir willow bat came into limelight after UAE player Junaid Sidiqui hit the longest six (109 meters) of 2022 T20 World cup from Kashmir (GR8) bat against Sri Lanka. "The longest six also gave a kick to sales of Kashmir bats. I began to receive emails from different parts of the world showing interest in buying our bat," Fawzul said. From no exports till 2020, over 35,000 bats were exported in 2021. Around 1.25 lakh Kashmir willow bats were exported to different countries last year, he added.

"Mohammad Naseem Khushi of Oman was the first player to use GR8 bat. It was for the first time that a Kashmir willow bat with local label and branding was used in world cricket. There are about 400 cricket-bat producing units in Kashmir. Four players of Oman played with GR8 bat in 2021 T20 world cup. In the pre-qualifying stage of the 2022 T20 world cup, four players of Oman and six from UAE played with the Kashmir willow bat.

Now countries including Bangladesh, Gulf countries, Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, South Africa, Denmark, United Kingdom and Ireland are importing Kashmir bats. At least 23 cricketers of six cricket playing nations are using the GR8 bat. Among them three are from West Indies, two each from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, four from Afghanistan, six from UAE and seven from Oman.

FIVE

dead and 27 injured as heavy rains hit Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	27	19	TDS	Los Angeles	23	14	LC
Colombo	30	26	LC	Melbourne	11	4	HR
Dhaka	31	27	TDS	Moscow	23	13	HR
Dubai	38	30	SNY	New York	26	18	LC
Houston	38	28	SNY	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	25	19	LC	Toronto	22	17	LC
London	24	16	LC	Washington	33	21	LC

As Switzerland's glaciers melt, referendum on 2050 net zero target gets nod

BERLIN

A majority of Swiss citizens on Sunday voted in favour of bill aimed at introducing new climate measures to curb the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

Final results released by *SRF* showed that 59.1% of voters were in favour of the bill, while 40.9% voted against.

The referendum was sparked by a campaign by scientists and environmentalists to save Switzerland's iconic glaciers, which are melting away at an alarming rate. Campaigners initially proposed even more ambitious measures but later backed a government plan that requires Switzerland to achieve "net zero" emissions by 2050. It also sets aside more than $3.357 billion to help wean firms and homeowners off fossil fuels.

The nationalist Swiss People's Party had claimed that the proposed measures would cause electricity prices to rise.

Backers of the plan argued that Switzerland will be hard-hit by global warming and is

seeing the effects of rising temperatures on its glaciers.

Greenpeace Switzerland welcomed the result of the referendum. "This victory means that at last, the goal of achieving net zero emissions will be anchored in law. That gives better security for planning ahead and allows our country to take the path toward an exit from fossil fuels," said Georg Klingler, an expert on climate and energy at Greenpeace Switzerland.

"The result of the vote shows that the citizens of our country are committed to the aim of limiting global warming to 1.5°C in order to preserve as much as possible our glaciers, our water reserves, our agriculture and our prosperity. I am very relieved to see that the lies disseminated by the opposite camp during the campaign did not sow the seed of doubt in people," he added.

Swiss glaciers experienced record melting in 2022, losing more than 6% of their volume and alarming scientists who say a loss of 2% would once have been considered extreme.

Both sides suffer heavy losses as Ukraine strikes back: UK officials

Kyiv said Moscow carried out 43 airstrikes, 4 missile strikes & 51 attacks from rocket launchers

KYIV

RUSSIA and Ukraine are suffering high numbers of military casualties as Ukraine fights to dislodge the Kremlin's forces from occupied areas in the early stages of its counter-offensive, British officials said on Sunday.

Russian losses are probably at their highest level since the peak of the battle for Bakhmut in March, UK military officials said in regular assessment.

According to British intelligence, the most intense fighting has centered on the south-eastern Zaporizhzhia province, around Bakhmut and further west in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk province. While the update reported that Ukraine was on the offensive in these areas and had "made small advances," it said that Russian forces were conducting "relatively effective defensive operations" in Ukraine's south.

A Ukrainian serviceman of the 68th Oleksa Dovbush hunting brigade runs to his position in the recently retaken village of Blahodatne, Ukraine on Saturday | AP

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update on Sunday morning that over the previous 24 hours, Russia had carried out 43 airstrikes, four missile strikes and 51 attacks from multiple rocket launchers. As per the statement by the General Staff, Russia continues to concentrate its efforts on offensive operations in Ukraine's industrial east, focusing attacks around Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka and Lyman in the Donetsk province, with 26 combat clashes taking place.

Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said that two civilians were killed, with a further three wounded in the past day.

Ukrainian officials said Russian forces also launched airstrikes on other regions of the east and south of the country.

Meanwhile, the death toll from flooding following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam has risen to 16 in Ukrainian-held territory, Ukraine's interior ministry said late Saturday, while Russian officials said 29 people died in territories controlled by Moscow. *AP*

INDONESIA ORDERS 13 MILITARY RADARS

Indonesia has ordered **13 long-range** military radars from Thales to boost airspace surveillance efforts across its immense archipelago, the French manufacturer and state-owned Indonesian defence firm PT Len Industri said

GM400A RADARS

The Ground Master 400 Alpha **(GM400a)** radars will allow the Indonesian military to "benefit from a single air picture integrating the detection of all types of threats, from jets and missiles to hovering helicopters and unmanned air vehicles," the companies said

The amount of the contract, which spans several years, has not been disclosed. Each radar costs several tens of millions of dollars

RANGE OF 515 KM

The GM400a is a mobile radar with a range of 515 kilometres and "integrates artificial intelligence capabilities to manage the massive amounts of data" it receives, Pascale Sourisse, president of Thales International said

The purchase of the 13 latest-generation radars "shows this country's concern for monitoring the surrounding airspace, which is directly linked to the situation in the Indo-Pacific," where China is asserting its ambitions, Sourisse said

SHARIF-CENTRIC

Senate passes bill to limit disqualification period in Pak

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S Senate has passed a bill to ensure no parliamentarian is disqualified for a lifetime, a move termed by the Opposition as an attempt to clear the way for former premier Nawaz Sharif's return to the country and his participation in the upcoming elections.

Nawaz Sharif, 73, was disqualified in 2017 by a five-member bench of the Supreme Court. In 2018, he became ineligible to hold public office for life after a Supreme Court verdict.

The Senate on Friday passed the bill seeking to limit the disqualification of lawmakers to five years with retrospective effect, the *Dawn* reported.

A copy of the bill presented in the Senate on Friday included an amendment to Section 232 (Qualifications and Disqualifications) of the Election Act, 2017.

The amendments say that a person's eligibility to become a member of parliament will be decided according to the criteria set under Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution.

In case the Constitution does not have a special provision for disqualification, any person disqualified through a court decision will be disqualified for a maximum of 5 years starting from the day the verdict is announced. Disqualification under Article 62(1)(f) will not extend beyond five years.

The Opposition termed it 'person-specific legislation' and an attempt to ensure Nawaz Sharif's participation in the upcoming elections. During the debate on the bill, the Opposition was asked not to oppose it, with a warning that "this sword might be used against ex-PM Imran Khan as well." *PTI*

Punjab anti-corruption body summons Imran

Pakistan's ex-PM Imran Khan has been asked to appear before Anti-Corruption Establishment of Punjab today in connection with a case related to the purchase of over 625 acres of land at throwaway prices through fraud in the Punjab province.

Investigators look over the scene of an overnight mass shooting at a strip mall in Willowbrook, Illinois on Sunday | AP

One killed, 19 others injured in gunfire in Chicago area

WILLOWBROOK

AT least 20 people were shot, one fatally, early on Sunday during a gathering in a parking lot in suburban Chicago, authorities said.

TV news video showed the strip mall lot filled with debris and police tape in Willowbrook, about 32.1 kilometres southwest of Chicago.

"There were at least 20 individuals shot. One victim is deceased and at least two were in critical condition," Deputy Chief Eric Swanson of the DuPage County Sheriff's Office said at a news conference.

"The motive behind this incident is unclear. ... We transported numerous victims from the scene. Others just walked into area hospitals."

The conditions of the wounded were not immediately available, Swanson told reporters.

The victims were taken to hospitals in DuPage, Cook and Will counties.

Witnesses described a scene of panic with people scattering in all directions, seeking cover from the barrage of gunfire.

"It was supposed to be like a Juneteenth celebration. We just started hearing shooting, so we dropped down until they stopped," witness Markeshia Avery told *WLS-TV*.

Another witness, Craig Lotcie, said, "Everybody ran, and it was chaos."

As per *ABC7 Chicago*, the victims were rushed to four different hospitals.

"We were all just out, and, next thing you know, shots just kept going off; everybody ran, and it was chaos," witness Craig Lotcie told the local news outlet.

No arrests have been announced. A massive police presence remained on the scene investigating about 9 am, and debris could be seen covering the ground. *Agencies*

Netanyahu vows to press on with judicial overhaul plan

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday his government intends to move ahead on contentious plans to change the country's judicial system after talks aimed at finding a compromise solution appeared to be crumbling.

At a meeting of his Cabinet on Sunday, Netanyahu said the opposition hadn't been negotiating in good faith and that his government would move ahead cautiously on the overhaul.

"This week, we will begin the practical steps. We will do them in a measured way, responsibly, but in accordance with the mandate we received to make corrections to the justice system," he said.

Opposed to US-Iran deal on N-programme: Israel

Benjamin Netanyahu said that he opposes any interim agreement reportedly being negotiated between the US and Iran over its nuclear programme. Netanyahu said Israel had informed the US that "the most limited understandings, what are termed 'mini-agreements,' do not—in our view—serve the goal and we are opposed to them as well." He opposed the 2015 deal between Iran and world powers brokered by the Obama administration.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid said moving ahead unilaterally on the plan "will critically harm the economy, endanger security and rip the Israeli people to shreds."

Lapid warned "if Netanyahu advances the legal overhaul unilaterally like he declared, he'll discover he's the prime minister of less than half of Israel," in a statement published on Sunday on Facebook.

The government says the plan is necessary to restore power to elected officials and weaken, what it says, is an interventionist Supreme Court.

Critics say the plan would upend Israel's system of checks and balances and push the nation toward authoritarianism.

The multi-pronged programme seeks to weaken the authority of the Supreme Court and give the politicians more power in the selection of the judges. *Agencies*

ASIA MATTERS

INDONESIA

MIN URGES BALI TO JOIN UNESCO NETWORK

Indonesia's Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno has encouraged Denpasar City, Bali to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) to increase the growth of MSMEs which will help generate more jobs. "I encourage the government, creative industry players...to collaborate and innovate in the development of the economy sector," he said. The minister said that if Denpasar joins UCCN, it will have the opportunity to build cooperation with other areas in sustainable city development

MALAYSIA

TOP POLICE OFFICER TO STEP DOWN

Malaysia's Inspector General of Police (IGP) Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani is expected to step down to make way for new leadership in the police force this week—about four months before the end of his two-year contract on October 3, *The Star* reported

THAILAND

FARMERS URGED TO USE HIGH QUALITY SEEDS

Thailand's PM is closely monitoring a programme intended to encourage rice farmers to adopt higher-quality rice seeds. The programme is poised to benefit around 200,000 farming households and produce 2.6 million tones of superior unhusked rice this year. Government Spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri said the Rice Department is are motivating farmers to switch to better quality seeds. The aim is to enhance rice yields and strengthen the competitiveness of Thai paddy farmers in the global market

38-year-old Indian-origin man stabbed to death in UK

LONDON

A 38-year-old Indian-origin man was killed in a fatal stabbing outside an apartment block in south London and a 25-year-old man has been charged with his murder, as the Scotland Yard said its Specialist Crime Command is leading the probe.

Aravind Sasikumar died after being found with stab injuries outside a residential property in Southampton Way in Southwark on Friday.

The Metropolitan Police launched a murder investigation and charged Salman Salim, 25, with murder on Saturday, when he appeared before Croydon Magistrates' Court to be remanded in custody.

Salim is scheduled to appear at the Old Bailey court in London on Tuesday.

"Police were called at 01.27hours (local time) on Friday, June 16, after a man was found with stab injuries outside a residential address in Southampton Way," the Met Police said.

The Met Police said the family of Sasikumar, reportedly originally from Kerala, have been informed and are being supported by detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command.

This marks the second fatal stabbing of an Indian-origin person in London and the third across the UK this week. *PTI*

Two years on, Afghans still unsettled in the US

SHENGJIN

ALMOST two years since he fled Afghanistan to escape the Taliban takeover, Firooz Mashoof is still haunted by the memory of his last day in Kabul—the bus that took him to the airport, getting on a packed plane and taking off as gunfire echoed across the city.

"The last thing I saw were the mountains around Kabul and the dreary sunset as the Qatar Airways took off," he said.

Today, the 35-year-old photojournalist and former employee of the Afghan soccer federation, is languishing in Albania. With each passing day, his anxiety grows over the delay in the promised US visa, casting a shadow on his dreams of a new beginning in America.

More than 3,200 Afghans have stayed in Albania's tourist resorts along the Adriatic Sea. Albania first agreed to house fleeing Afghans for one year before they move for final settlement in the US, then pledged to keep them for longer if their visas were delayed. There are about 76,000 Afghans already in the US, where congressional efforts meant to permanently resolve their immigration status have also stalled.

A TV presenter and comedian, 30-year-old Qasim Taban resumed producing funny YouTube clips from Shengjin. He says he finds strength in humor and is hopeful friends and fans back home can see the videos. "We, here in Albania, and also Afghans back in Afghanistan need to laugh," he said.

Farishta Oustovar, a television news reporter and a former player on Afghanistan's national volleyball team, arrived in Albania in 2021. Within two months, she found work—first at a hotel, then at a shoe factory and finally at a child-care centre. "I need to feel that I can have a normal life," said Oustovar, despite worries for her family in Herat. *AP*

ACTRESS MILLBEN TO PERFORM AT MODI'S DIASPORA EVENT

WASHINGTON

AFRICAN American singer and actress Mary Millben, known for her moving rendition of 'Om Jai Jagadish Hare' and 'Jana Gana Mana,' will perform at a diaspora event to be attended by PM Narendra Modi on June 23.

Millben, 41, will also attend the 9th International Day of Yoga at the UN Headquarters (UNHQ) on June 21 with PM Narendra Modi.

"I have great anticipation and excitement as the Prime Minister visits the United States next week. This visit celebrates the US-India relationship, the world's two largest democracies and the most important relationship in the world today," said Millben.

Formally invited by the Steering Committee for Prime Minister's Official State Visit, Millben is confirmed to perform for Prime Minister Modi and guests at an invitation-only diaspora reception hosted by the United States Indian Community Foundation (USICF) at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC on June 23.

African-American singer and actress Mary Millben

"I want to thank the Steering Committee for the thoughtful invitation. One earth, one family, one future, the motto of the G20 Summit this year and a timely statement as we welcome the Prime Minister to the United States next week," the actress said.

Her global performance of the Indian National Anthem performed virtually in 2020 for the 74th Anniversary of India's Independence Day and the treasured Hindu hymn 'Om Jai Jagdish Hare' for the 2020 Diwali observance have been praised and viewed by millions across the US, India, and the world. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Austria foils pride parade attack: Ministry

Vienna: Austrian police have arrested three youngsters, including a 14-year-old, for allegedly planning an attack at Vienna's pride parade, which drew hundreds of thousands of people, officials said on Sunday. The men aged 14, 17 & 20 and suspected of being Islamic State sympathisers were held ahead of the parade, as per domestic intelligence agency chief Omar Haijawi-Pirchner.

Income tax return filing: Key points to remember for taxpayers

The tax-filing season is here and taxpayers should consider certain key aspects such as components of their salaries, bonuses, before filing returns

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

The last day for income tax return filing for individuals not subject to tax audit, is on July 31. So, those who have not yet filed their ITR, need to gear up and file them timely to avoid late penalties. Whether you have hired a tax expert or not, it's always beneficial to know the basics of the process.

Firstly, one should know that there are four ITR forms applicable to an individual. For example, if one is a salaried individual or a pensioner with income from one house property and other sources like interest with income up to ₹50 lakh per annum, then ITR Form 1 is applicable.

However, if one's income from salary, pension and other sources is more than ₹50 lakh per annum, then ITR Form 2 should be used. On the other hand, if a person is self-employed with business profits as his or her income source, then he/she can file returns using ITR Form 3. One who is a salaried individual and also has business income can go for ITR3 form.

ITR 4 can be filed by those who are opting for presumptive taxation.

UNDERSTANDING TAX FILING

Taxpayers opting for the new tax regime need to file their tax returns by **31 July 2023**

Business Income is taxable at applicable slab rates and short-term capital gains are taxable at **15%**

Form 26AS is a consolidated statement of all the taxes deducted and deposited against the PAN

Form 16A is issued when a bank deducts TDS on interest income from fixed deposits

The ITR filing due date is **July 31**

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Form 16/A and 26AS

The first step is to have all the documents handy like TDS certificate (Form 16/ Form 16A), interest certificate (paid or received), home loan statement, bank statement, form 26AS, capital gains statement and Aadhaar card. With the help of these documents, you will be able to know your gross salary and how much TDS has been paid on it.

Form 16 is a TDS certificate issued by the employer which acts as a proof of tax payment. It has details like gross salary including perquisites, house rent allowance, professional tax etc.

According to tax experts, the taxpayers should look at all the components of their salaries, such as basic salary, allowances, perquisites, bonuses, etc.

Meanwhile, Form 16A is also a TDS Certificate, which is applicable for TDS on 'Income Other than Salary'. Form 16A is issued, when a bank deducts TDS on interest income from fixed deposits, for TDS deducted on insurance commission, for TDS deducted on rent receipts, etc.

"After subtracting applicable deductions such as house rent allowance (HRA), standard deduction, professional tax, etc, one will get taxable income," said chartered accountant Atul Goel with Atul Goel & Associates. He added that income from other sources like interest income, dividends, or any other kind of income needs to be added to such income.

Form 26AS is accessible on the Income Tax Department website. Form 26AS is a consolidated statement of all the taxes deducted and deposited against the PAN (permanent account number) of the individual. The taxpayer should match the total salary and TDS reflected in the form 16 with form 26AS. These should also be matched with the annual information statement before proceeding further.

Other income

According to CA Chetan Daga, founder of AdvantEdge consulting, Form 26AS and Annual Information Statement (AIS) are good starting points, but they are not comprehensive documents. Any taxable income that is not appearing on Form 26AS and AIS, still needs to be reported on the tax return. Taxpayers should align their reported incomes with Form 26AS and GST returns, he said. "For transactions in shares and securities, the Tax Department has issued guidance when such transactions are to be treated as business income and as capital gains," Daga said. Business Income is taxable at applicable slab rates and short-term capital gains are taxable at 15%. Given the difference in tax rates, the classification is crucial.

"Where the frequency of transactions is high or borrowed funds (including broker's margin) are used, chances are that the transaction will be treated as business income. There is no clear definition of what is "high frequency" and a decision needs to be taken after considering overall facts of the case," he stated.

According to experts, professionals filing their tax returns under presumptive taxation scheme should examine if their profession is eligible for presumptive tax in the first place.

"Only a specific list of professionals is eligible for presumptive taxation. For instance, an accountant is eligible for presumptive taxation, but a person teaching accountancy is not eligible," Daga said.

Also, it is to be noted that taxpayers opting for the new tax regime need to file their tax returns by 31 July 2023 (non-audit cases). If there is a delay in filing the tax return, the taxpayer loses the option of opting for the new tax regime for that year.

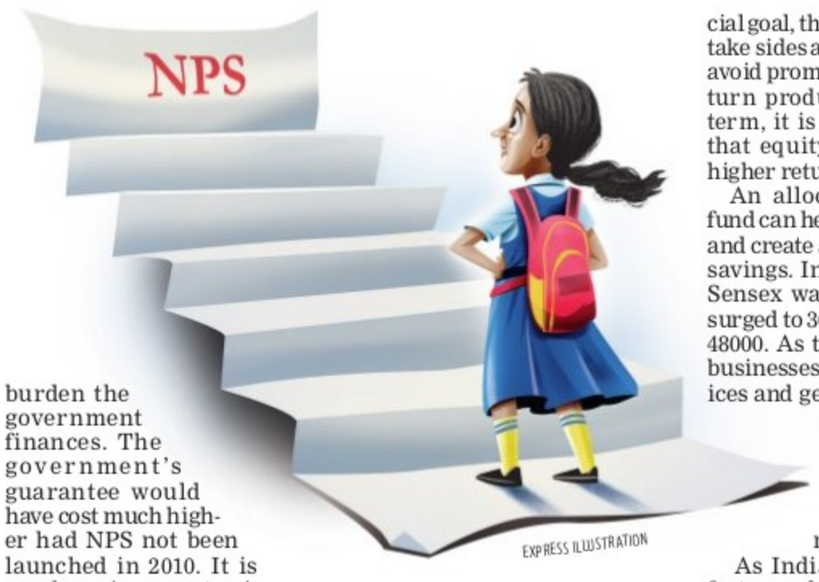
Also, the taxpayers should keep in mind that they lose the benefit of carrying forward losses to the next year if they file their returns after the due date.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHY NPS SHOULD BE PART OF HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

FOR years, defined benefit schemes ruled in India. Your first investment is most likely a post office scheme that guarantees a 7% or above return. According to the Reserve Bank of India data, post office small savings schemes' outstanding balance stands well over Rs 15,00,000 crore. The government guarantee means it owes an interest rate to you each year on these savings. Such savings are a burden on the country's budget.

A quiet revolution has taken place over the past decade or so. The National Pension Scheme (NPS) will soon touch Rs 10,00,000 crore in assets under management, according to Deepak Mohanty, chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India or PFRDA. NPS is a defined contribution scheme. There is no government guarantee on the money you contribute each month. Returns are market-linked, and you can determine the equity component in your portfolio. It was open to government employees earlier and extended to non-government workers too.

As this column has argued in the past, NPS can do what 401 (k) contributions did to American households. They created a savings revolution and did not burden the government finances. The government's guarantee would have cost much higher had NPS not been launched in 2010. It is much easier now to sign up for an NPS than before. It can be done on your smartphone too. For salaried people, NPS is the most important investment you will ever make.

Starting early

The government is encouraging those entering the workforce to open a NPS account. A lot of awareness is created as you can use your saving account internet banking to sign up. All banks are pushing the initiative and gathering accounts for the government. It achieves the objective of reducing the burden on the exchequer as the government does not have to guarantee returns. At the same time, it offers market-linked returns to you that are much higher than the prevailing guaranteed return schemes or inflation over the long term.

NPS is primarily a long-term savings product, and your pension fund can swell into a sufficient amount for you to retire in peace.

There is a need to push for appreciating the NPS early. The government must reach out to high school students and push the importance of savings and investment in the curriculum. There is no education on personal finance in school or college curricula.

Personal finance is a complex topic for adults to appreciate. Putting too much information about investing and saving could put off the young. There is a need to explain savings products that offer a guaranteed return and a defined contribution product like NPS that offers market-linked returns. Since retirement is a long-term financial goal, the government should take sides and push for NPS and avoid promoting guaranteed return products. Over the long term, it is empirically proven that equity assets generate a higher return over 15-20 years.

An allocation to an index fund can help you beat inflation and create adequate retirement savings. In 1980, the S&P BSE Sensex was at 100. By 2000, it surged to 3000; by 2020, it was at 48000. As the economy grows, businesses sell goods and services and generate steady profit growth. It is safe to assume that the Sensex could give similar returns over the next 20 years.

As India's economy grows faster and inflation eases, you can create wealth for your golden years through a disciplined savings approach. The government-guaranteed returns tend to offer you a return along the lines of the 10-year government bond yield. Currently, it is hovering around 7%. A guaranteed return of around 7% can only take care of inflation. It cannot create wealth for a comfortable retirement. The other advantage of starting early with the NPS is that you can contribute small amounts and create a meaningful pool of money. You will allow your hard-earning savings the time to grow and multiply. Despite a loud noise about equity investing directly or through mutual funds, only 3% to 4% of people voluntarily own equity assets. NPS is the right nudge to trigger an equity cult in India.

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

WHY DO YOU NEED A FINANCIAL PLANNER?

FINANCIAL planning is not a perfect science. In fact, the jury is out on whether it is a science or an art. Also most people say "my parents never did it, so I do not need it".

For most people who are not obsessed about large cap, small cap, midcap, goal setting, asset allocation and such things…it is as painful an experience as visiting the dentist. Some people may prefer a visit to the oncologist!

What happens is when a customer/client/potential client comes to meet a Financial Planner, the planner talks to the client somewhat like this:

Planner: Where do you work and how much do you earn?

C: About 50L is the gross salary between my wife and me, and our take home is ₹2L and ₹1L, respectively.

Now the planner who has a lower income thinks that the client should spend ₹1L pm and save ₹2L pm…and that 1L should include the EMI.

Client thinks he should spend ₹2L pm including EMI, the ₹1L should be used for vacations, and anyway Provident Fund is for retirement!!

The other problem with Financial Planners is they make life sound like there is nothing to do except to make plans, do Systematic Investment Plans, write a will…and then review it once a month at least. Switch once in a year….. phew exhausting is it not?

At the end it is like going to a dentist who says –

a) you have not been brushing regularly,

b) when did you last floss your teeth

c) even scaling you have delayed it by a month or two

d) 2 more of your teeth need to be removed, and we need to put an implant.

Sorry, that will cost ₹94,000.

How many of us will like that experience (not me, my dentist is a good singer and she even sings for me when she is removing my tooth!!). Financial planning is of course worse. It has math. And the planner asks "do you know how much investing ₹40 a day will become if you invest for 30 years..no no make it 35.." and just when the client is recovering…he says 4,54,65,425! Wow. The client is feeling worse. OMG I wasted 18 years of my life not knowing this.

He is then shown how he needs ₹3 crore for his daughter's education in India, ₹8 crore for her to study abroad, ₹6 crore for her marriage and ₹28 crore for his retirement. Assuming that he has only one kid. OH, another is on its way? Just double all the numbers!

Financial planning is good for you. However, the process through which a planner can put you through is not so great!

What happens when you do not go to a financial planner? Well, you need to do it yourself of course. You need to have the discipline to learn about investing, keeping records, do the asset allocation, know when to remove from equities, and when to invest in equities, etc. etc. That is not really easy.

Take your option – which way do you want to go?

Net direct tax collection up 11% so far in FY24; refunds up 30%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

NET direct tax collections in the current financial year till 17 June 2023 showed an increase of 11.2% to ₹3,79,760 crore compared to ₹3,41,568 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year (2022-23)

The net direct tax collection of ₹3,79,760 crore include corporation tax at ₹1,56,949 crore (net of refund) and personal income tax (PIT) including securities transaction tax (STT) at ₹ 2,22,196 crore (net of refund).

The gross collection of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for 2023-24 stands at ₹ 4,19,338 crore compared to ₹. 3,71,982 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, registering a growth of 12.73% over collections of 2022-23.

The Gross collection of ₹ 4,19,338 crore includes corporation tax at ₹1,87,311 crore and personal income tax including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at ₹2,31,391 crore.

Advance tax collections till 17 June 2023 stood at ₹1,16,776 crore, which is 13.7% higher than ₹1,02,707 crore collected during the same period previous year. Of the ₹1.16 lakh crore advance tax collection, corporate taxes accounted for ₹92,784 crore and personal income tax (PIT) accounted for ₹23,991 crore. Meanwhile, Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) accounted for ₹2,71,849 crore, self-assessment tax accounted for ₹18,128 crore, and regular assessment tax accounted for ₹9,977 crore.

Advance tax and STT collections

The Gross collection of ₹4,19,338 crore includes corporation tax at ₹1,87,311 crore and personal income tax including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at ₹2,31,391 crore. Advance tax collections till 17 June 2023 stood at ₹1,16,776 crore, which is 13.7% higher than ₹1,02,707 crore collected during the same period previous year.

Refunds amounting to ₹ 39,578 crore have also been issued so far in 2023-24 against refunds of ₹30,414 crore issued during the corresponding period in the preceding Financial Year 2022-23, showing a growth of 30.13%.

It is to be noted that the government has budgeted for ₹33.6 lakh crore as tax collection in FY24, out of which direct taxes are likely to account for ₹18.2 lakh crore. In 2022-23, direct taxes accounted for ₹16.25 lakh crore out of the total ₹30.5 lakh crore tax collection.

'Not correct' says RBI on reports of missing notes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has termed the reports that appeared in a section of media about missing banknotes as incorrect and said the reports are based on erroneous interpretation of information collected under the Right to Information Act from the printing presses.

"RBI has come across reports circulating in certain sections of the media alleging missing of banknotes printed by banknote printing presses. The RBI emphasises that these reports are not correct," the central bank said in a statement. "These reports are based on erroneous interpretation of information collected under the Right to Information Act, 2005 from the printing presses," it added. RBI has clarified that all banknotes supplied from printing presses to RBI are properly accounted for.

Markets may scale new highs depending on monsoon & global cues

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

India's equity market may scale to a fresh all-time high this week if supported by favourable global cues and persistent foreign institutional investors (FII) buying for a session or two. The BSE Sensex on Friday had jumped 467 points to close at 63,385; while the broader NSE Nifty index moved 138 points to settle at 18,826.

During Friday's intraday session, Sensex touched a high of 63,520, just 63 points away from its all-time high 63,583. Nifty is also trading near its all-time high of 18,888. Both the Sensex and Nifty gained over 1% last week. The broader index - small and mid cap - performed exceptionally well, with a rise of nearly 3% for the week.

"Technically, the Nifty continues to exhibit a bullish trend, with the all-time high of 18,888 serving as immediate resistance. If the index surpasses this level, a rally towards the 19000/19150 level can be anticipated in the near term. On the downside, the immediate support level is at 18660, and further support can be expected at 18530. These levels will be important in determining potential price movements," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart.

According to Gour, the Indian market will be closely monitoring the progress of the monsoon season. The country's weather office has maintained its forecast for a normal monsoon this year; however, it has already been delayed by around 10–13 days this year. Globally, an increase in volatility is expected in the US market over the coming week. This is due to the upcoming semi-annual testimony of FED Chairman Jerome Powell to the US Congress, added Gour.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services said that an area of concern is that due to the El Niño phenomenon, monsoon has been deficient, so far, in 29 out of the 36 IMD divisions. This can improve in the coming weeks, as has happened in the past. If not, some institutional selling is likely, added Vijayakumar.

The Indian equity market has seen a sharp rally in the past three months wherein the Sensex has gained over 5,500 points.

This rally is supported by positive macroeconomic numbers such as the easing of consumer inflation, growth in industrial productivity and robust GDP numbers. Foreign buying too has increased in domestic equities with ₹16,405 crore FPI inflows till 17 June. This is on top of the massive ₹ 43,838 crore invested by FPIs in May.

Rahane to play for Leicestershire after WI tour

India batter Ajinkya Rahane will be plying his trade for the English county side Leicestershire in division two, after finishing his two-Test assignment with Indian team against the West Indies. Rahane, a former India captain, recently made a successful comeback to the Indian team during the World Test Championship final against Australia earlier this month.

The rise & rise of Satwik and Chirag

Indian duo become first pair from country to capture BWF World Tour Super 1000 event with success at Indonesia

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

THE sky is the limit for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, a supremely talented doubles pair from the country.

Over the years, they have made a habit of rewriting history books with enchanting performances. Before their arrival, this was a far-fetched dream as India could never quite stand toe-to-toe against other elite badminton nations in the men's doubles section.

Sunday was yet another red-letter day for the Asian champions.

Playing in front of a raucous crowd in badminton-crazy Jakarta, Satwik and Chirag were in their elements as they captured the Indonesia Open title, thereby winning a BWF Super 1000-level crown for the first time in their career. This is monumental given that the cream of sport were fighting for the top prize and valuable points for Olympic qualification. Incidentally, this is the first time a doubles pair from the country has achieved the same. "Winning in Indonesia is really special. One of our dream tournaments. When we were starting, it was about at least getting an entry to play at Istora. From there, to now winning it, it's been a long journey," Satwik told reporters later.

The victory was sweeter as they had, at long last, found answers against Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia, the No 2 seeds who had proven to be thorns in their first eight meetings. On the day, Satwik and Chirag — World No 6 and likely to climb the ladder after the latest hit — played with plenty of purpose. The sharpness was visible in the way they operated and were especially dominant in net play, forcing their rivals to submission eventually. Their defence, an aspect that is key at the elite level where margins are fine, was also on point as they won in straight games (21-17, 21-18). "In the earlier eight matches against them, we would hold ourselves back, but today we stuck to the plan. We felt they are humans, they are players, and they will also make mistakes. We stuck to the plan right till the end and never really gave them a chance to come back," Chirag noted.

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) and Chirag Shetty celebrate after clinching the men's doubles Indonesia Open title in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sunday | AP

As the match wore on, the gap was clear to see as the Commonwealth Games champions continued to maintain a stranglehold of the contest. "Even in the second game when they took a couple of points, we were like we don't have to hold ourselves back and play safe. That would have made the game a little slow and they are good at capitalising on," Chirag added.

One massive quality that's engraved in their mental make-up is their humility. That is something that has kept their hunger intact. Soon after pocketing the match, Satwik broke into his version of bhangra-style dance. Chirag was animated as always and had his T-shirt off, soaking in the magical moment. Given what had just transpired, this was a befitting scene. However, they are not getting carried away after this experience, especially after a narrow miss in the Tokyo Olympics. They are aware the road to the upcoming Olympics in Paris is a treacherous one, where just the strongest survive. "We have won this tournament, and next week we have another. We go back and reset. But I am still happy with the way we played. It felt like a new day, playing new opponents. We were down 8-0 in head-to-head, but I wasn't thinking much about it."

Before Sunday's final, the Indian pair had beaten top seeds, Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto of Indonesia, in the quarterfinals before recording a come-from-behind win against Korean pair of Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals.

Given the manner in which they have learnt to navigate past rivals with different styles in trying circumstances, Chirag and Satwik's aptitude for the craft is certainly boundless and this bodes well for India ahead of bigger events in the days to unfold.

ROAD TO TITLE

Rd 1: Bt Christo Popov/Toma Junior Popov (FRA) 21-12, 11-7 retired

Rd 2: Bt He Ji Ting/Zhou Hao Dong (CHN) 21-17, 21-15

Q/Fs: Bt Fajar Alfian/Muhammad Rian Ardianto (INA x1) 21-13, 21-13

S/Fs: Bt Kang Min Hyuk/Seo Seung Jae (KOR) 17-21, 21-19, 21-18

Final: Bt Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik (MAS) 21-17, 21-18

1	6	3	1
This is their first BWF World Tour Super 1000 title	They now have six titles in total on BWF World Tour.	This is their third title of the season after Swiss Open/BAC.	This is also their first win against Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in nine meetings.

Winning in Indonesia is really special. One of our dream tournaments. When we were starting, it was about at least getting an entry to play at Istora (badminton arena). From there, to now winning it, it's been a long journey. — Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

Titles like these come with responsibilities: Boe

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

India doubles coach Mathias Boe (C) with Satwik and Chirag | INSTAGRAM

WHAT changed between some of the the previous matches against the Malaysians and Sunday? The strategy was the same but the Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty executed it to perfection. And after winning three titles since March, 'I don't think any country can rule us out'. Those were the words of Mathias Boe, the coach who continues to chisel, polish and fine-tune Rankireddy and Shetty's games. Hours after witnessing his wards win a Super 1000 title for the first time, the Dane spoke about the win, why these wins comes with responsibilities, the desire to remain hungry and how they celebrated.

Thoughts on the title

Really happy that they can win such a massive title, winning the Indonesia Open... especially the men's doubles, it's not easy. I'm really proud of the boys, how they played throughout this week. The win today (Sunday) and, also, the win in the quarterfinal (Friday) against the World No 1 (pair of Muhammad Ardianto and Fajar Alfian). That was very impressive.

On the 0-8 (the Indian pair had a 0-8 win-loss record against Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik) and the strategy

The strategy today (Sunday) was how I had planned it. A few of the other times also... we know we have a very strong attack and of course we can score points from the attack. We had to stay aggressive in the service situation and see if we can get the attack out of that. If that didn't succeed, then we had to trust the defence and lift high and be ready in the defence which we did really well. We didn't win all the rallies obviously from the defence but at least some of the points we managed to score from... from the defensive positions. That was really good. They kept getting extra shuttles over the net and that forced the Malaysians into mistakes... some of the other times we played them, they (Rankireddy and Shetty) were a little desperate after a few attacks and were forced into a mistake. This time they were putting shuttles back constantly so the Malaysians were the ones who were forced into the mistakes. Obviously, that was really good.

On if the pair have moved from being pretenders to contenders

They are contenders for all the major titles. They have won the Swiss Open, Asian Champs back-to-back and now this... I don't think any country can rule us out if we play well. These titles also come with some responsibilities. Nobody is going to give us anything. Everyone knows that it is difficult playing us. If we use this in the right way, it can be our advantage. If we use this in the wrong way, it can be a disadvantage. But, yeah, of course they are contenders with the way they are playing right now. That's just a super situation to be in. We will try to make the most of it and stay hungry.

Rajeshwari primed to follow father's footsteps

GOMESH S @ Chennai

IT is never easy for someone born in a family where sport is part of the DNA. They are not just expected to take it up but excel in it, to follow the footsteps towards greatness. For Rajeshwari Kumari, it was no different.

Her father is Randhir Singh — an Asian Games medallist and the acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia. Her grandfather, Bhalindra Singh, the younger son of Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala, was a first-class cricketer in British-ruled India. He went on to hold several offices including president of the Indian Olympic Association.

Rajeshwari has been to every Asian Games since she was born and every Olympics, except Tokyo — all as a spectator, cheering the Indian team from the stands. Come September, for the first time, the trap shooter is set to be part of the opening ceremony along with Manisha Keer and Preethi Rajak, thanks to her score (111) in the finals of the shotgun selection trials 4 on Sunday. "It's been a dream for me," Rajeshwari told this daily. "I got into shooting because of my father. I used to go everywhere with him. Growing up, our vacations were either in jungles or some sporting events. My father played in Asian Games and won when my grandfather was a sports administrator and now my father is the president of OCA. It is always a very big thing, I always get nervous closer to Asian Games but this time, I was confident."

Rajeshwari Kumari and her father Randhir Singh (L)

"He (father) is the reason I became a shooter. He has taken us to every Asian Games since I was born. I was telling him that this time, I will be walking in the opening ceremony for the first time. It is almost as if someone is writing my script," said an elated Rajeshwari. Randhir is very excited himself. "Very happy for her and the team. It was the perfect gift on father's day," he told this daily.

For someone who got into the sport only at 20, Rajeshwari used to get nervous during her early days. The legacy and stories she had heard about her father's success meant that she wanted to be good at it. At the same time, she felt anxious about it. This time, though, was different. Having put in a lot of hard-work, preparing for this test for almost a year, Rajeshwari has virtually ensured herself a ticket to the Asian Games, thereby inching closer to a dream she has chased for a decade.

Stuart Broad (C) took three wickets in the first innings for England | AP

England take 35-run lead on rain-hit Day 3

AGENCIES @ Birmingham

ENGLAND'S batters faced threatening clouds above and hostile Australian bowlers below as the latest twist in a dramatic Ashes opener at Edgbaston saw the hosts reduced to 28-2 in their second innings on Sunday for an overall lead of 35.

Play was first interrupted early in the afternoon session with England at 26-0 and buoyed from dismissing Australia for 386 right before lunch with Usman Khawaja out for a superb 141. When play resumed after 75 minutes, England went on to lose both its openers in a disastrous mini-session of only four overs under floodlights.

Brief scores: England 393/8 decl & 28/2 in 10.3 ovs vs Australia 386 in 116.1 ovs (Khawaja 141, Broad 3/68, Robinson 3/65).

Sreeshankar makes big leap

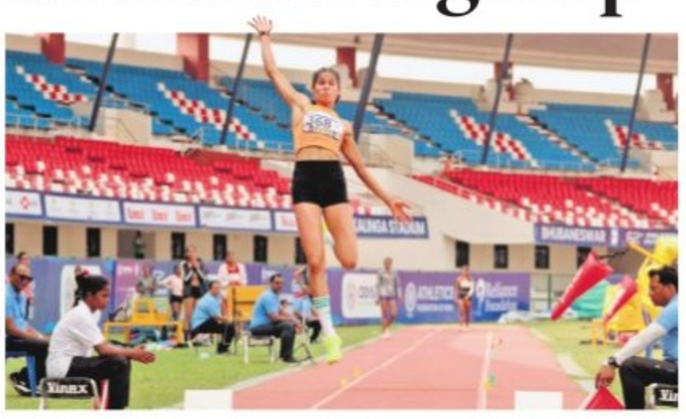
TANMAY DAS @ Bhubaneswar

KALINGA Stadium seems to be a happy hunting ground for long jumper M Sreeshankar. It was at this very venue that he had broken the 8 metre barrier in 2018. On Sunday, he soared even higher. The Kerala athlete jumped a massive 8.41m in the men's long jump event of the ongoing the 62nd National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship to grab the attention of many.

That effort, which is now his personal best, is incidentally just one centimetre shy of compatriot Jeswin Aldrin's world-leading mark of 8.42m, which is also a national record.

He might have missed the national record but this is a huge lift for Sreeshankar as his effort, which he produced during the preliminary round, was well over the World Championships qualification mark of 8.25m. The World Championships is due to be held from August 19 to 27 in Budapest. This effort is also well over the Asian Games qualifying mark of 7.95m set by the Athletics Federation of India.

His father and coach, S Murali, is a delighted man. It was a timely boost as this had coincided with Father's Day and just ahead of bigger events. Murali is expecting him to keep up the momentum in the finals. "He could do better in the final," he said. Talking about future events, Murali, a former triple jumper himself, stressed on the importance of planning. "Being an athlete, I understand how to cope up with different weather conditions. Based on that, I had planned a schedule for Sreeshankar. The diet also plays a major role in your career. A Spanish dietician guides him on a day-to-day basis," he said.



Shaili Singh jumped 6.27m on Sunday to make final cut | SHAMIM QURESHY

Speaking about schedule, the coach also confirmed that Sreeshankar will be taking part in the Asian Athletics Championships which is due to be held in Thailand from July 12 to 16.

While Sreeshankar and Murali had a memorable day, Jeswin could only produce a best jump of 7.83m. Muhammed Anees Yahiya is also among 12 athletes in the final, which is expected to be a major attraction on Monday.

In the women's corresponding event, Ancy Sojan produced an effort of 6.49m to better the Asian Games qualification mark of 6.45m. Rising star Shaili Singh produced an effort of 6.27m to make it to the final along with Ancy. Nayana James was sandwiched between the two at second spot with an effort of 6.31m. The final promises to be an exciting one.

Away from the jumping arena, as many as three javelin throwers hurled the spears past the Asian Games qualification mark of 78.23m. Odisha's Kishore Kumar Jena was the topper with an effort of 79.96m. Shivpal (79.35m) and Anuj Kalera (79.04m) finished second and third, respectively.

WRESTLING

Sakshi and Babita engage in war of words

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

SAKSHI Malik accused former wrestler and BJP leader Babita Phogat of siding with the government during their protest against the WFI chief while the latter claimed that Malik has become a "Congress' puppet". Malik and her husband Satyawart Kadian had on Saturday asserted that the wrestlers' protest was not politically motivated.

On Sunday, quoting their Saturday video, Malik tweeted that they had taken a dig at Babita and Teerath Rana about how they tried to use the wrestlers but the satire was not understood for the lack of sense of humour.

"In the video (posted on Saturday), we had commented how Teerath Rana and Babita Phogat were trying to use wrestlers for their selfish motives and how when the wrestlers were in trouble, they opted to sit on the lap of the government." Babita replied to Malik and claimed that she had nothing to do with their protest since she was against the agitation on road from day one.

EXPRESS READ

CWCQ 2023: West Indies, Zimbabwe win

HARARE: On the opening day of the 2023 Cricket World Cup Qualifers, Zimbabwe beat Nepal by eight wickets with Craig Ervine and Sean Williams scoring centuries. Meanwhile, West Indies trumped United States of America by 39 runs. **Brief scores:** Nepal 290/8 in 50 ovs (Bhurtel 99) **lost to** Zimbabwe 291/2 in 44.1 ovs (Ervine 121 n.o, Williams 102 n.o); WI 297 all out in 49.3 ovs (Charles 66) bt USA 258/7 in 50 ovs (Gajanand 101 n.o).

SAFF: Pakistan arrival delayed due to visa issue

BENGALURU: Pakistan football team's arrival here for the SAFF Football Championship has been delayed due to a visa issue but the squad is expected to reach in time for its opening fixture against India on June 21. Pakistan squad was expected to land in Bengaluru on Sunday after completing the Four Nation Cup in Mauritius.

Ranji Trophy to be played from Jan 5 to March 14

ENS @ Chennai

WITH the 2023-24 domestic season set to get underway with Duleep Trophy beginning on June 28, the premier red-ball domestic tournament, Ranji Trophy, is set to be played from January 5 till March 14 next year.

Per the season schedule the Indian board has shared with the state associations, Ranji winners Saurashtra are in Group A with Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Haryana, Services and Manipur.

Ranji Trophy Groups

Elite: Group A: Saurashtra, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Haryana, Services, Manipur; **Group B:** Bengal, Andhra, Mumbai, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Bihar; **Group C:** Karnataka, Punjab, Railways, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Gujarat, Tripura, Chandigarh; **Group D:** Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Baroda, Delhi, Odisha, Pondicherry, Jammu & Kashmir; **Plate Group:** Nagaland, Hyderabad, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh.

Chhetri leads India to title triumph

TANMAY DAS @ Bhubaneswar

HOSTS India emerged as the champions of the Intercontinental Cup 2023 by defeating Lebanon 2-0 in the final at Kalinga Stadium here on Sunday.

Though India got three scoring opportunities in the first half, the score remained goalless. After changing sides, skipper Sunil Chhetri opened the account in the 46th minute to put India in the driving seat. Dependable forward Lallianzuala Chhangte doubled the lead in the 66th minute to take away the match from Lebanon. Sandesh Jhingan was adjudged as player of the match.

Sunil Chhetri (L) in action against Lebanon on Sunday | SHAMIM QURESHY

India started their campaign with a 2-0 win over Mongolia. In their second league match, they edged out Vanuatu 1-0. The last league match between India and Lebanon ended with a goalless draw. This is India's second title triumph in the tournament. They won the inaugural edition in 2018 and the following year, Korea won the title. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik gave away the prizes in the closing ceremony.

TO TAKE THE DROP OR NOT?

With the NEET UG results out, it is time to decide on the next steps depending on how you fared in the exams. Among the options on the table are taking a drop year for a fresh shot at the test. ***Saumyangi Yadav*** speaks to a range of people to help you take an informed call

Let experts have their say

If students are unable to crack NEET, the next question that looms large is if they should take a drop year. Experts share their thoughts

With a limited number of seats for MBBS, more and more students are opting to take a drop year for the preparation of the next National Eligibility cum Entrance Test - Undergraduate (NEET UG). However, though repeating a year or not might be a personal choice, the industry experts and educationists we spoke to have contrasting views on the same.

A few medical experts opine that considering NEET UG is an important examination, taking a gap year might be useful.

"It is not such a bad idea since medical education is no joke and if one wants to pursue their dreams, they must be given a chance," said Dr Rohan Krishnan, Orthopaedic surgeon, Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi and Chairman of Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA).

When asked if students will miss out on a lot if they take a drop year in such a fast-paced world, he replied, "Even if the world's moving too fast, these youngsters have the time to discover their passion. Also, now that the upper age limit has been eliminated, it shouldn't be such a grave concern."

Why drop out at all?

There might be several reasons why students might decide to take a drop year ranging from financial to personal reasons. While only a small percentage of NEET aspirants qualify for government medical seats in Indian colleges, private colleges charge exorbitant tuition fees making MBBS elusive.

"The total cost of pursuing MBBS can be more than a crore in private medical colleges, with most colleges charging ₹20-25 lakh per year. Even if one tries to take a student loan, they would not be able to pay it back with what MBBS graduates are earning today. In my opinion, if repeating a year might give you a chance to get a government seat and save money, you should go for it," explained Dr Aviral Mathur, President of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) and Resident Doctors Association, Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC).

wise words

About the long run...

Several aspirants are hesitant about dropping a year as it might set them back. They have a fear of explaining why they took a gap year, particularly to their future employers. However, Dr Mathur says this shouldn't be a deciding factor.

"I dropped a year and I can say that it doesn't matter. No one asks you how or why. You might be a year or two older but you will begin to make friends and when you become a doctor or gain success in the field, it'll be worth it," he said.

There are other ways

Others believe that though dropping might seem essential, it should not be the go-to option.

"Students need to understand that the level of competition is escalating every year due to the rise in number of applicants, especially repeaters. So, it is better if you focus on following a disciplined schedule while preparing and aim to give your personal best," stressed Gaurav Tyagi, career counsellor.

Experts added that students may get fixated on taking a drop even before attempting the exam due to fear of failure.

"There are unlimited attempts for NEET-UG so why waste even one? Many students give up in the last month before NEET and take a drop because of the pressure. However, they should focus on managing their exam anxiety," said Prateek Jain, Unacademy educator for NEET exam.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE TAKING A DROP

1. **Introspect:** Is there scope for you to do differently this time so that you can score better? What is the plan? These are questions that need urgent answers
2. **Finances:** Getting a medical degree is a relatively long process, so ensure that your monetary situation allows you to add another year to the duration
3. **Mental bandwidth:** Preparing all over again requires a different kind of vigour, a more steadfast and focussed approach. Do you have what it takes mentally?
4. **The missing factor:** What was missing from last time that could be the game-changer this time? Coaching, more time, less time?

Either way, it's your take

Hear it from both sides—students who dropped and cracked NEET and those who did not crack it but found greener pastures any way

There are several factors one has to consider while deciding whether to take a drop or not. We spoke to a few students who had dropped out in the past and are satisfied with their career choices, be it MBBS or not.

Avoid external pressure

Medical students we spoke to said that though it is a huge decision, they should avoid parental pressure while making the decision.

Prerana Chaudhary, a third-year MBBS student at Government Medical College, Jalgaon, said, "Before taking a drop year, I was scared. It can be difficult, especially with parental pressure. While I was preparing, I tried to avoid gatherings as I was afraid of judgement. After getting into a college, people might ask you about your gap year in the first semester but not after that. Looking back, it was a small part of a big process."

The medical students said that they still had backup options while preparing for the examination, in case they do not get through.

"I feel backups are important as you cannot give your all to just one option. It gives you a mindset to not give up on everything altogether," pointed out Priya Bansode, another MBBS student.

either way

When we spoke to former NEET aspirants who had taken a drop year but did not get through, they said that there are other options apart from MBBS that one can explore if one fails to qualify for a medical seat.

Prachi Punyatoya, who teaches at the senior secondary level now, chose to pursue BSc (Honours) in Agriculture after dropping two years for NEET.

"It is a common misconception that Medicine and Engineering are the sole choices available for Science students. I think schools should have career guides who can explain that there are many options after NEET," Prachi explained.

What are the other options?

There are many courses one can study to stay in the healthcare sector without pursuing MBBS, the former droppers explained. Public Health and Biotechnology are just two of the many examples but exploring and researching these courses is essential, they added.

"If I couldn't be the one to cure the problem then maybe I could at least be the one to prevent them from happening," said Eeshani Joshi, who is pursuing MSc in Public Health.

Chanki Chowhan, who is now pursuing Biotechnology after dropping two years for NEET prep, shared that the course offers a variety of options in the field of Medicine, Genetics or even Forensics.

Drop years can be taxing

Former NEET aspirants unanimously agreed that the preparation, especially during their drop years, can get very challenging and put aspirants under a lot of pressure.

"For me, the gap year was not only taxing mentally but also physically. Knowing that if you don't clear your exam this time you will be wasting an entire year, and money. Especially if you're taking coaching classes, combined with the pressure, can be too overwhelming," Aditi Yadav, another former NEET aspirant shared from her experience.

Aditi is preparing for MBA after completing her graduation in Botany (Honours).

Drop year doubts

keep calm

IF I FAILED ONCE, DO I EVEN HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL?
Everybody falls at some point, including the greatest of individuals. Acknowledge that experiencing failure does not label you as a failure. It could mean that you just require more time to prepare
– Col BK Mishra, Principal, Amrita School of Medicine, Faridabad

I FEEL LIKE OTHERS ARE PROGRESSING WHILE I AM STUCK IN THE SAME PLACE...
You have to remind yourself that the timeline for everyone is different. You have to give many years to this career but once you become a doctor, something that you have passion for, then the time wouldn't matter
– Jasreen Birgi, Counselling Psychologist at Lissun

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR ME — COACHING OR SELF-STUDY?
Most of the people who go back to coaching have no idea what else to do. But few students feel that they do not get enough time for self-study as the schedule of coaching classes is tight. In the end, it is a personal choice
– Shreyansh Jain, NEET aspirant

I'M SO PASSIONATE ABOUT MEDICINE. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS IF I DON'T QUALIFY?
There are two options: Allied Health Science and Nursing. Courses in Allied Health Sciences have started recently but not many opt for it. Therefore, job opportunities are more
– Dr B Kanunakar Reddy, VC, KNR Uni of Health Sciences, Telangana

THE PRESSURE OF CLEARING THE EXAM AFTER DROPPING OUT IS DOUBLE.
To do well in the exam, it is important that you let go of the stress. Get proper sleep and exercise. In the end, the result is not in your hands but you have to give your personal best any way
– Jasreen Birgi, Counselling Psychologist at Lissun

I KEEP GOING BACK AND FORTH. HOW DO I DECIDE AND STICK TO MY DECISION?
It helps to have conversations about your doubts with your family or whoever it is that you seek advice from, even if it is a career counsellor. Have an 'outline', decide how many years you wish to put into this particular pursuit
– Aakriti Astha, Psychologist at Counseling Services, IIT Delhi

AFTER ASKING STUDENTS WHAT QUESTIONS HAUNT THEM, WE TURNS TOWARDS THE EXPERTS FOR THEIR ADVICE

While the process to decide whether to drop one year for NEET preparation or not can itself be stressful, episodes of self-doubts and insecurities keep haunting students even after the decision is made.

Hence, we reached out to a few experts with some of the most frequently asked queries and doubts that repeaters shared with us. Here is what the experts said:

What after choosing a DROP YEAR?

After all the doubts and questions, if you have finally decided to go for a drop year for **NEET UG** preparation, there are two paths you can take — you can either join a coaching institute or choose the less-taken road of self-study

While most coaching institutes offer 'repeater courses', especially for the students who have decided to take a drop year with focused learning methods, it might not be for everyone due to many personal and financial reasons.

Here are what experts and former NEET aspirants say about both options:

Self-study

JAYAPRAKASH GANDHI, CAREER COUNSELLOR
The repeater courses have become highly expensive. If due to any reason, a student is unable or unwilling to take up coaching during their drop year, there are a number of YouTube videos available online and chapters for doubt clearing. A number of mock tests are also available on the internet if students want to access them

KAPIL GUPTA, NEET MENTOR AND CAREER STRATEGIST, NEETPREP
For repeaters, there could be more frequent burnouts. I suggest students make a schedule that includes at least eight hours of sleep and four hours of non-study time. Another option is joining online platforms for mock tests, question papers or doubt clearing. They are cheaper. I have seen good success rate for those who study without any coaching too

this or that

OM KUMAR SAHOO, FORMER NEET ASPIRANT
For me, self-study was a way to find self-sufficiency but it depends from person to person and it's about their respective priorities. For me personally, a few parts of the process were hard, especially Physics but I had firmly decided that the problem has to be solved by me alone. The main reason I did not opt for coaching classes is because the other way was much calmer. This is how I would like to describe the process of self-studying – calm, modest, and simple

ANUSHKA PANT, FORMER NEET ASPIRANT
I took a three-year drop for NEET prep. For the first year, I went to Kota, Rajasthan, where I opted for coaching at Allen Career Institute. It was an experience but after facing immense pressure over there, which I couldn't take, and health issues, I decided to go back home and start the process of self-study. I had access to all the coaching material so, it was pretty easy for me but it's just about your willpower actually. Otherwise, NCERT is always the key. You can also always take help from online channels and keep solving previous year's mutiple-choice questions

Coaching

ANURAG TIWARI, NATIONAL ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, MEDICAL, AAKASH INSTITUTE
More than one lakh students take admission to our repeaters course that offers specialised classes for NEET UG repeaters. As repeaters are familiar with fundamental concepts, rigorous testing, revision and doubt-clearing are the main requirements

VINOD KUMAWAT, SENIOR VP, ALLEN CAREER INSTITUTE
If a student has scored good results in their Class XII Board examination and is even slightly above average in academics with a passion for medical education, they should go for a drop year. Notably, at our institute, the number of droppers is higher than the freshers

UJJWAL SINGH, CEO & PRESIDENT, INFINITY LEARN BY SRI CHAITANYA
Our repeater programme provides comprehensive and targeted support to help students maximise their potential and achieve better results in their second attempt. Firstly, we focus on personalised learning and then emphasise on practice and revision

PURNACHANDRA RAO, DIRECTOR, RESONANCE HYDERABAD
There are two types of students who take a drop. Those who scored well but hope to get into a better college and those who scored less than 400. The strategies for both are different. We have a 4+4 slot. We give two and a half hours to one subject. This includes one and a half hours of teaching and one hour of practice

FIVE POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS

Drop years can take a toll on the student's mental health, especially with frequent burnouts and episodes of demotivation. At times like these, positive affirmations can help you gain a positive and confident mindset. Affirmations are pointers you tell yourself regularly. This can impact your mindset and the way you look at things significantly, mental health experts say. The goal is to change the inner dialogue. Here are a few affirmations you can practice:

- I am capable of clearing this exam and I will stay positive
- I will give my best and will not get scared if I do not know all the questions
- I am getting better every day
- I am trying my best to stay motivated on this difficult path
- I am learning something new every day

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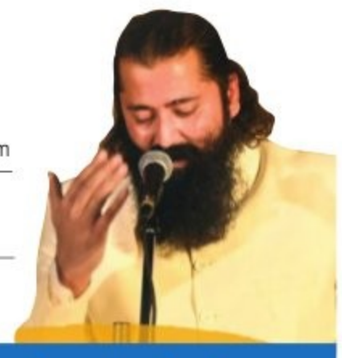


DAY'S DIARY

Rosenbergs executed

On June 19, 1953, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed in the United States for conspiring to pass atomic secrets to Russia.

THE EXECUTION

Julius Rosenberg was executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, NY. After which Ethel Rosenberg was strapped to the same electric chair.

PREZ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

One of the first decisions facing newly elected President Eisenhower was whether to grant executive clemency to the Rosenbergs.

GUILTY

Both refused to admit any wrongdoing, proclaimed their innocence for two years. The Rosenberg case was appealed through the courts. Seven different appeals reached the Supreme Court of the United States and were denied.

Check out what's happening in the city

PG 2

City-based rally veteran Chetan Shivram secured a podium finish at the recently concluded Rally Arunachal in INRC 2 category, battling adverse weather conditions and persistent brake issues

BRAKING POINT

DESE GOWDA

IT was city-based rally veteran Chetan Shivram's second attempt at the highly competitive and prestigious Rally Arunachal, round 2 of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) Indian National Rally Championship (INRC). After enduring an early retirement from the event last year due to an engine failure, Shivram sought to make amends at the recently concluded 2023 edition.

Despite a promising start, the Snap Racing VW Polo driven by Shivram and co-driver Shiv Prakash was soon faced with brake cooling issues, severely hampering their progress and forcing Shivram to make tactical use of engine braking and downshifts to slow down the car in braking zones. Yet the pair managed to bring the car home safely, finishing on the podium in the INRC2 category and at P6 in the overall standings.

"On day 1, we had decent pace and were in a good position. Unfortunately, two of the four rounds on that day were cancelled. On the second day, it started to rain heavily, limiting our visibility and also leading to brake cooling issues. So that's when we lost a bit of time and dropped down to third. But we now have a good idea what the difficulties are. We'll put in a lot of work before the next round. Overall, it was an amazing experience," shares Shivram.

An entirely tarmac round, the event was held in stages on a closed-off national highway winding its way through the hills and out of Itanagar. At one particular stage, Shivram says he almost had a race ending event, when he lost control of the car and spun. "During one of the night stages, it was raining quite heavily and I was almost driving blind, relying entirely on my co-driver to tell me what's coming up ahead. We were coming down this beautiful section. I must have been doing around 175 kmph and we hit a slush patch. Even though I braked hard and changed down to second, the rear of the car stepped out and we were heading towards the barriers. I reacted quickly and managed to save it. But it was 'a heart in the mouth' moment," Shivram shares.

The defending INRC2 champion believes that without the niggling brake cooling issues, he had the potential to win in his category and even manage a potential overall top 3 finish. "My team did an amazing job this year with the car. The car was much more capable this year and without the brake overheating issues, which lost us crucial time in braking zones, we could have been much far ahead," he says, adding that being in the top 3 during the superstage round organised in Itanagar was a fun experience.

Apart from being a successful rally driver, Shivram has been running a rally school, Chetan Shivram Motorsports, in Indiranagar, nurturing promising young talent. More than half-a-dozen of his students participated in Rally Arunachal in various categories, including INRC3, INRC4, JINRC and Women's INRC. While drivers Arnav Pratap Singh, Jahaan Singh Gill, Ruthuparna Vivek, Nikeetaa Takkale managed to clinch podium finishes, the rest were able to complete the event.

Chetan Shivram and Shiv Prakash

> *My team did an amazing job this year with the car. The car was much more capable this year and without the brake overheating issues, which lost us crucial time in braking zones, we could have been much far ahead*
>
> Chetan Shivram, rally driver

FASHIONABLY CHIC

Fashion designer Tarun Tahliani showcases his latest collection in a private fashion show recently at his flagship store in Bengaluru | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Re-Railing Lives

In the immediate aftermath of the Balasore train disaster, city-based foundations sprung to action, undertaking vital relief operations

RHEYA ANN GEORGE

FOLLOWING the Balasore train disaster earlier this month in Odisha – one of the deadliest train accidents in the country in recent years, with fatalities of over 300 and more than 1000 people injured – multiple foundations in Bengaluru sprung to action, attempting to provide immediate and vital relief to disaster victims.

Community Action Collab,a city-based platform of partners such as donors and ground-level volunteers initiated a response and took immediate action. "Our internal team members contacted our partner organisations to assess the ground-level situation and identify the immediate needs of the victims of the derailment. Volunteers were deployed to the crash site and hospitals, to provide food, water and other necessities during the first few days. Currently, we are offering intensive support to the injured and the families of the deceased including psychosocial support, hygiene kits, sanitary items, bedsheets, and shelter" says Rambabu, the Partnership Engagement Specialist at CAC. CAC is dedicated to facilitating long-term interventions to assist victims in their recovery journey.

They worked with 12 partners and contributed a total of 12-15 lakh rupees for this purpose.

Another city-based organisation, Give, extended their support for accident victims. "Give has partnered with Yuva Unstoppable, as they conduct a baseline survey on the ground. Based on their insights, appropriate interventions will be determined, allowing us to respond effectively to the more pressing needs through our fundraising efforts", says Sumit Tayal, chief operating officer of Give,

adding that they also organised stretchers, body carriers, corpse freezers, cautery devices, and water purifiers at the hospitals.

Meanwhile organisations such as CYSD and Sewa International worked on addressing critical needs of victims, such as providing meal support to those attending to hospitalised victims, as well as providing necessities such as water, food, clothing and temporary shelter to victims themselves.

Furthemore, organisations such as SEEDS Foundation are focussing on long-term recovery of victims. "We have deployed volunteers at the community hospital and community centres in Odisha to help the affected victims and also arranged for ambulance services. Our operation also provided food and water supply to the restoration workers at the accident site", said Satyabrata from SEEDS. With the minimal funds they possess, they provided resources and support to 700 to 1,000 residents and their families.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win a discount voucher worth ₹2,000 from Oia**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1)Baimbale Curry 2)Finger Lime 3)Ronga Saah

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Nikhila Karanth 2) Chaithra BK 3)Roshan G

CITY READ

Flea Market organised at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

The SOUQ Market, an exhibition highlighting the rich artistic legacy of India, is now running till June 25 at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. This event is open to visitors daily from 11 am to 7 pm in accordance with stringent Covid-19 safety regulations. With more than 100 stalls, artisans from all around the country display their magnificent works, creating a direct connection between their craftsmanship and potential clients. Home decor, garden decor, handloom sarees, kurtas, jewellery, handicrafts, toys and clothing, artwork, furniture, mats, and porcelain objects are among the numerous products on show.

NU Hospitals and Biker Saviors conducted a Men's Health Awareness Bike Rally

NU Hospitals, in collaboration with Biker Saviors Bengaluru, successfully conducted a Bike Rally on June 17. The rally aimed to raise awareness for International Men's Health, focusing mainly on Men's Urology. Over 100 enthusiastic riders participated, starting at NU Hospitals Rajajinagar and ending at the Padmanabhanagar branch. Dr Pramod Krishnappa, Consultant-Uro Andrologist at NU Hospitals addressed many men's health topics at the rally. NU Hospital promotes education and tailored screenings for urinary diseases in men.

BOOK NOOK

BADE GHARAANE KI BAHU

By ASTHA JAIN 'ANTAS'

The evil forces that have occupied the palace for generations cannot be defeated. They can be appeased by the sacrifice of newly wed daughters-in-law. Is Kalpana too going to be sacrificed in this battle between faith and superstition?

RAMA OF THE AXE: THE EPIC SAGA OF PARASHURAMA

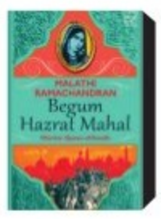
By RANJITH RADHAKRISHNAN

A tale of revenge, love and duty, *Rama of the Axe* is the story of Rambhadra's journey to becoming Parashurama.

THE GREAT POOP WAR

By RANJIT LAL

The trouble starts one clear morning when RWA president Gangajal Badrinathji steps into a steamy, stinky pile of poop with his spanking new designer sneakers. Instant uproar! Within minutes, the dog owners and cat lovers are at war. The burning question is... whodunit?



Begum Hazrat Mahal: Warrior Queen of Awadh

By Malathi Ramachandran

This unique novel takes readers to the story of a begum's fight during the first war of Independence.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Vocal Bliss

A musical evening that will take you through the musical legacy of Awadh.
WHEN: June 20, 8pm
WHERE: Khanposh, Indiranagar
DETAILS: in.bookmyshow.com

ROAR LAUGHTER

Take your family and friends along and enjoy some new and some old jokes from the best comedians around Bengaluru.
WHEN: June 19, 8.30pm **WHERE:** Glens BakeHouse, Koramangala **DETAILS:** in.bookmyshow.com

From Clay to Art

Participants will get a chance to learn and practise both hand-building and wheel-throwing methods during this pottery session.
WHEN: June 19, 10am **WHERE:** Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar **DETAILS:** in.bookmyshow.com

TAKING THE TOUGH PATH

Enjoy the beauty of nature with a sunrise climb at Ramanagara hills, called as Mecca for Rock Climbing. **WHEN:** June 19, 11pm
WHERE: Pickup at Gopalan Arcade, Mysore Road
DETAILS: in.bookmyshow.com

CLASSICAL GRACE

A Kathak dance workshop, where hand and foot work together to create philosophy.
WHEN: June 19, 7pm
WHERE: Shoonya, Lal Bagh Road
DETAILS: in.bookmyshow.com

Sip & Savor

Enjoy a cup of chai while conversing with others over heart-to-hearts and other moving topics as you sit around a table in a small, cosy setting.
WHEN: June 19, 7pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, S.T. Bed, Koramangala
DETAILS: in.bookmyshow.com

Grapes and Wines

Join a wine tasting while also exploring a vineyard and learning about what is in you glass.
WHEN: June 19, 11am
WHERE: Rico Park, Yelahanka
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

STAGED HUMOUR

A still from *Chamannana Chiroti*, a comedy-drama directed by Bidarahalli Vasudeva Murthy, performed at KH Kala Sudha | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

STRAWBERRY ROSE LATTE

Contributed by **Shajadi Raiza TH,** Chennai (Instagram @burstdumpling)

INGREDIENTS

- **Sweetened strawberry puree:** 2 tbsp
- **Rose milk syrup:** 1 tbsp
- **Pasteurised cold milk:** 1 cup

METHOD

- Add all the ingredients in a cup and mix well. You can change the measurements according to your preference.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

OVERHEAD SHOULDER STRETCH POSE

This pose is a deep stretch of the shoulders where the arms are bent and taken behind the back causing stretch in the scapula region of the flexed arm. This simple beginner stretch is generally practiced across all kinds of yoga sequences, since it primarily is done as part of warm-up practices.

STEPS

- Stand erect with the feet together, not touching the heels and big toes. Rest the toes on the floor.
- Tighten the knees and pull the kneecaps up, contract the hips and pull up the muscles at the back of the thighs.
- Keep the stomach tucked in, chest forward, spine stretched up and the neck straight.
- Distribute weight of the body evenly.
- Ensure the chin is not raised and is close to the collar bone. The facial muscles are not stressed.
- Bring arms close to your body by placing them by the side of the thighs.
- Raise your arms above your head, bend the elbow bringing palm of hand behind the back, grab the elbow with the opposite hand, holding the arms behind.
- Exhale and bend the right arm pushing the elbow from behind your head. Stay here for two breaths.
- Release and repeat this with the left arm and push the elbow behind with every exhalation.
- You can keep the eyes open and learn to balance the body with focus on the breath and steadiness of the body.

BENEFITS

- Releases stiff shoulders, and helps respiratory disorders.
- Aids the heart chakra, which is responsible for functions such as circulation, immune system and mental wellbeing.
- Stretches muscles in the arms, chest, shoulders and back.
- Contracts and strengthens a muscle called serratus anterior.
- Opens the chest and improves shoulder flexibility.
- Aids mobility in shoulder joints.
- Avoids shoulder injuries.
- Stimulates the thymus gland, which is responsible for the immune system.
- Stimulates the lymphatic circulation in the body.
- Recommended for sportspersons during recovery regimes.
- Helps correcting postural issues such as Kyphosis.
- Increases the lung capacity.
- Promotes deep breathing.
- Relieves tension off the shoulders for people who spend most of their time in desk jobs.

LIMITATIONS

Avoid if you have stress-related headaches, migraines or giddiness, eye strain, low blood pressure, osteoarthritis of the knees, bulimia, diarrhea, insomnia or leukorrhea.

If you have a problem with balance, practise this with your feet 25 cm apart.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

CUSTODY (Telugu)

Constable Siva is assigned to escort a witness from police custody to the courtroom. Soon, Siva learns that the entire police department wants the witness dead. When a normal constable holds the custody of a devil, what will happen in this war? Will the truth prevail?

Cast: Naga Chaitanya Akkineni, Arvind Swami, Krithi Shetty

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

UGRAM (Telugu)

CI Shiva Kumar is a brash police officer and it often causes problems both at work and home. What happens when the consequences of his actions catch up to him?

Cast: Naresh, Mirnaa

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

BHOLAA (Hindi)

Bholaa, an ex-convict, endeavours to meet his daughter for the first time after being released from prison. However his plans were interrupted by a well-orchestrated drug bust. His journey begins with an extraordinary encounter, and is littered with strange difficulties with death lurking around every turn.

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Deepak Dobriyal

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

HATYAPURI (Bengali)

Renowned investigator Pradosh Chandra Mitter, aka Feluda, goes on a vacation to the coastal city of Puri. But a trail of blood follows him and his team as they get pulled into solving a sudden murder.

Cast: Indraneil Sengupta, Abhijit Guha, Ayus Das

- **Watch on:** ZEE5

HELLO MEERA (Telugu)

Meera, an IT worker from Hyderabad travels back to her native place Vijayawada to get married. Her world is turned upside down by an Instagram tag from her ex-boyfriend Sudhir and call from the police.

Cast: Gargeyi Yellapragada.

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

GARMI (Hindi)

From a small-town dreamer to a student leader, a young man's life takes a 180-degree turn when he steps into the murky world of college politics, power and crime. Will he succumb or rise above it all to achieve his ultimate goal?

Cast: Vyom Yadav, Anurag Kumar, Anushka Kaushik

- **Watch on:** Sony LIV

FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS (Hindi)

Enduring poverty and an alcoholic husband with a temper, a woman toils endlessly to save money for a road in a remote Himalayan village so she can take her son to physiotherapy.

Cast: Vinamrata Rai, Chandan Bisht, Harshita Tiwari, Mayank Singh Jaira

- **Watch on:** Sony LIV

FOREIGN

CULPA MÍA (Spanish)

Noah has to leave her town, boyfriend and friends behind and move into the mansion of her mother's new rich husband. There she meets Nick, her new stepbrother. They fall madly in love in secret.

Cast: Fran Berenguer, Noah Casas, Gabriel Guevara

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW (English)

When formerly-incarcerated Marcus Cowans discovers the possible misdeeds of one of his brothers he finds himself in a personal dilemma of protecting his brother or protecting the rest of his loved ones.

Cast: Wu Omar Epps, Michael Ealy, Michael Beach, Theo Rossi, Erica Tazel

- **Watch on:** Lionsgate Play

CREED III (English)

Still dominating the boxing world, Adonis Creed is thriving in his career and family life. When Damian, a childhood friend and former boxing prodigy resurfaces after serving time in prison, he's eager to prove that he deserves his shot in the ring.

Cast: Michael B Jordan, Jennifer Thompson

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

YOU DO YOU (Turkish)

Merve chose the bohemian life, but it didn't choose her back. Faced with eviction, she starts a new job and stumbles into a spicy setup with her boss.

Cast: Ahsen Eroglu, Mine Tugay, Ozan Dolunay

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Netflix:	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
discovery+:	₹199/month
Disney+Hotstar:	₹899/year
Lionsgate Play:	₹699/year
Jio Cinema:	₹999/year
ZEE5:	₹699/year
SONY LIV:	₹299/month

This Pride Month, we take a look at artists who have broken the barriers of gender and sexuality through their works, and in the process started dialogues on making the country more inclusive

OF CREATIVES & QUEER CONVERSATIONS

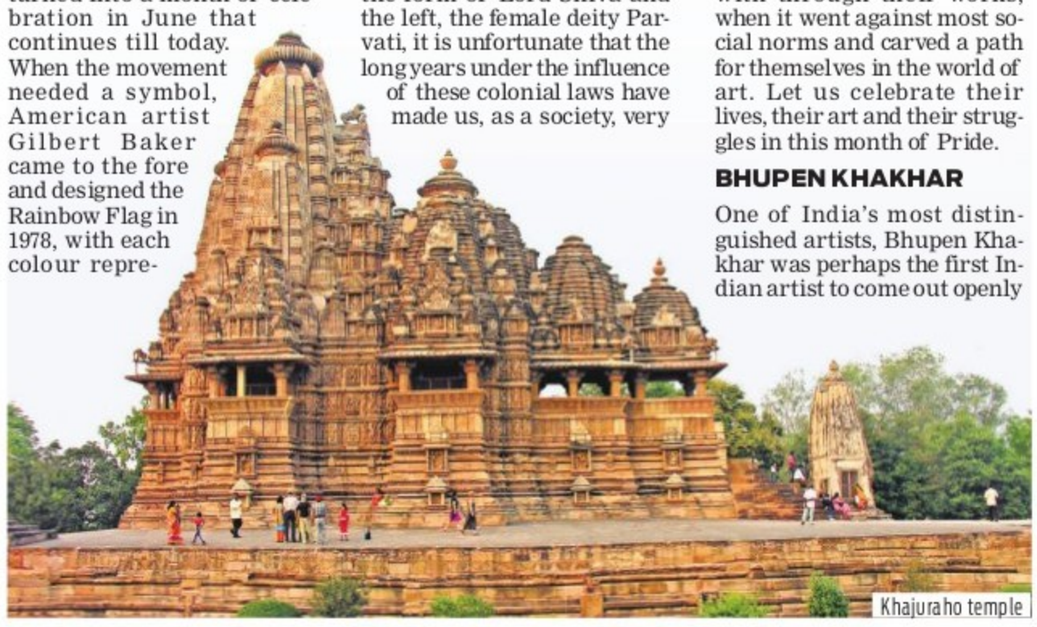
JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

Honesty is the best policy — the moral of the story for countless school lessons, stated at the end of a tale like the ultimate gospel of truth. And yet, how receptive are we, as a society, to all honesty? The experience of coming out of the closet about one's sexuality, if it does not conform to the accepted heterosexuality, is definitely a far cry from these proverbs of our childhood.

On June 28, 1969, members of the LGBTQIA+ community fought back centuries of repression at the Stonewall Inn, a bar in New York, known until then, to be a safe space for the community. This was a time when homosexuality was criminalised and police raids of gay establishments were rampant. On that night however, resistance was put up by those gathered in the bar and thus was born the first LGBTQIA+ rights movement. The next year, on the first anniversary of the Stonewall riots, gay activists in New York took out the first pride parade to commemorate the uprising which over the years soon turned into a month of celebration in June that continues till today. When the movement needed a symbol, American artist Gilbert Baker came to the fore and designed the Rainbow Flag in 1978, with each colour representing literal meanings.

ANCIENT INDIA AND LGBTQIA+ HISTORY

The LGBTQIA+ community has a long recorded history in Ancient India. From our epics like the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* to our sculptures, there are a multitude of references that point to the practice of homosexuality. The temple complex of Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, a legacy of the Chandela dynasty built around the 12th century, is an architectural marvel, more known for its erotic sculptures of passionate couples. Among these exquisite carvings that read like poetry are also a few that showcases the intimacy between same-sex couples, providing visual proof that homosexuality did exist back then and was not a Western import. In fact, it was the British invaders that brought on anti-LGBTQ laws in all their colonies which hugely impacted the community long after the colonists left. In a country like India that acknowledged the divine as being half man and half woman and worshipped the synthesis of the genders in the form of Ardhanarishvara with the right half being in the form of Lord Shiva and the left, the female deity Parvati, it is unfortunate that the long years under the influence of these colonial laws have made us, as a society, very conservative and close minded in accepting what does not fit into the compartments of our narrow notions.


Khajuraho temple

In the realm of contemporary art, few artists have taken the bold step of proclaiming the gender they identified with through their works, when it went against most social norms and carved a path for themselves in the world of art. Let us celebrate their lives, their art and their struggles in this month of Pride.

BHUPEN KHAKHAR

One of India's most distinguished artists, Bhupen Khakhar was perhaps the first Indian artist to come out openly as gay. His homosexual leanings, which he revealed after the death of his mother, were reflected in his works - considered very bold for a nation that was still existing under the strict anti- LGBTQ laws imposed by the British. Painting male nudes wrapped in a close embrace was sheer guts at a time when most creativity chose to leave no trace of their maker's sexual orientation if they veered from the norm.

'You Can't Please All', a large oil painting from 1981 by Khakhar, showing a naked man leaning over a balcony with the town unfolding in the distance below shows a clear separation of his private world and the public world around. The title by itself is suggestive of his struggle to gain acceptance in a society riddled with puritan concepts.

SUNIL GUPTA

Artist Sunil Gupta speaks volumes about the unfair treatment meted out to gay men around the world, through his photographs. Unabashedly gay himself, his journey as an artist was fraught with unacceptance especially in India. When he showcased his works in 2012, he, not surprisingly, ran into a lot of trouble. Once the works were displayed, the venue was left unlocked while he went elsewhere for a few hours. An intruder broke in, took photographs of the exhibit and filed a police complaint, prompting the police to intervene and pull down the show on the opening day itself. It took him another ten years to mount his next solo show in Delhi.

Aryakrishnan in a skirt

His series titled 'Exiles', featured gay men in front of famous tourist sites presented along with quotes from the subjects. In his next series which could be considered an updated version of 'Exiles', the gay couples featured seemed more defiant as they stared out of his photographs and though homosexuality was still illegal then, there seems to be a determination to fight against odds in the postures of his subjects. As a victim of this marginalisation, his photographs take on an almost autobiographical tone.

ARYAKRISHNAN

When Maria, a toll collector in the Kollam district of Kerala was found dead with throat slit in 2012, Aryakrishnan, a college student at the time was deeply shocked at the brutal murder of his good friend. Maria, a trans person and a prominent LGBTQIA+ activistappeared in Aryakrishnan's dream not long after and the artist took it as a sign to act to create a space and an identity for the queer community. Years later, at the 2018 Kochi Biennale, he came up with a project as an ode to all that Maria stood for.. Titled 'Sweet Maria Monument', he created a space where people could sit and chat, with queer literature strewn around and portraits of Maria filling the room. This interaction was his attempt at making people comfortable with the community. The artist also turned his work into a performance where he wore a skirt as he walked around the sprawling Biennale venues in Kochi. Aryakrishnan believes that it is important for him to create works that bring forth such non-categorical perspectives.

UTTAM CHITRAKAR

Uttam Chitrakar of Medinipur in West Bengal learnt the ancient art of Kalighat paintings at a very young age from leading Patachitra artist, Anwar Chitrakar. Not content with merely echoing the age-old themes, he addressed his concerns about the third gender through his paintings, all in the Kalighat style. "Some people think my figures are male, some feel they are women. But I wish to highlight the rights of the Third gender, who should enjoy equal rights like all," Uttam once stated in an interview. By painting nautch girls with beards and men finding the reflection of a woman as they view themselves in a mirror, Uttam celebrates queer identities through his art.

BEING QUEER, BEING HOME

It is indeed heartening to see cultural spaces like the Kochi Biennale, galleries and museums support this celebration by providing platforms that aim for inclusiveness in all aspects.

In June 2022, the Kolkata Centre for Creativity, a multidisciplinary art space, held the second edition of their exhibition, Learn Togetherness, to commemorate Pride month. The exhibition aptly called, 'Being Queer, Being Home', explored the idea of 'home' through the eyes of the queer community. Forty four artworks which included paintings, photographs, sculptures, installations, writings and performance art were selected through an open call. They were then showcased in a spectacular exhibition at the Centre, bending one's idea of the general perception of what was normal.

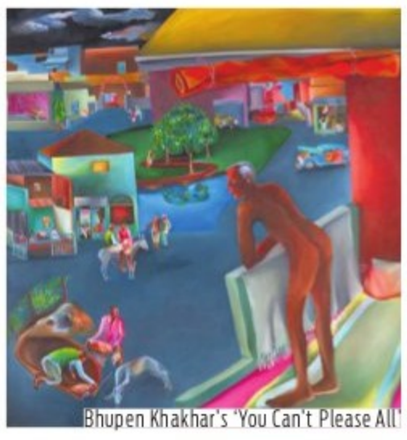
On a similar note, the nonprofit volunteer group, Insideout Delhi regularly organises an art competition and exhibition to not just provide a space for the LGBTQIA+ artists but also to expose the general public to the community. Their show in 2018, Refracted Lives, asked LGBTQIA+ artists to address the issue of how society affected their lives. Their later show named 'Awakening' was one of introspection where artists looked at their own awakening based on their experience of belonging to non-conforming genders and sexualities in India. For artists like Amir Rabbani from Bihar, who like most others, faced innumerable hurdles to get to where he was, the Insideout Project was a great way to finally come out of the closet.

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world." Cultural expressions that sensitise people to the fact that the world is not just black and white but is filled with the beautiful hues of the rainbow, go a long way in contributing to the change. Creative interventions and engagements certainly influence rigid minds to accept every shade of love and embrace those who have been denied a space to just be themselves. This Pride Month, here's hoping for a more tolerant, more loving and all inclusive world in the future!

Uttam Chitrakar's painting

Being Queer, Being Home

A portrait by Sunil Gupta


Bhupen Khakhar's 'You Can't Please All'

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASIFA BEGAUM W/o. Najeeb Ahmed R/a #57, 8th B Main Road, New Gurappanapalya, Jalabhavan, Dharmaram College, Bangalore- 560029 Have Changed My Name to **ASIFA BEGUM** vide Affidavit dated 07.06.2023 Before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JANET ROJI GEORGE**, Aged about 18 years, D/o. Roji Thomas George, Residing at Flat No B 103, Lilium Gardenia Apartment, 2nd Cross, BDS Layout, R K Hegde Nagar, Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Bangalore 560077, hereby declare that my names **JANET ROJI GEORGE, D/o. Roji Thomas George** and **JANET R GEORGE, D/o. Roji T George,** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **JANET ROJI GEORGE, D/o. Roji Thomas George** vide affidavit dated 17-06-2023 sworn before Advocate & Notary Y.R. CHANDRASEKAR, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASIFA BEGAUM W/o. Najeeb Ahmed R/a #57, 8th B Main Road, New Gurappanapalya, Jalabhavan, Dharmaram College, Bangalore-560029 Declare that in my Son's **MOHAMMED MAAZ AHMED** passport bearing No. R6039576 Name of the Mother i.e. my name is wrongly mentioned as **ASIFA BEGAUM** instead of **ASIFA BEGUM** vide Affidavit dated 07.06.2023 Before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Anitha Caroline Stephenson**, D/o. Dr. BTB Reddy, Aged about 45 years, Residing at No. 17, Sukhi Apartments, 2D, 2nd Floor, Rhenius Street, Richmond Town, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India - 560 025, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Anitha Caroline Stephenson** to **Anitha Caroline Reddy** vide affidavit dated 17.06.2023 sworn to before Ravi Kumar V., Advocate and Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I SAPNA CHOUHAN wife of RAVI CHOUHAN resident of No1166 Tower 1 Prestige Lake Ridge115 Thurahalli Road Yadalam Nagar Bangalore, Karnataka-560061. that my passport carries my Marital Surname however I would like to declare that I should be identified by my maiden's name and Surname and hence I am changing my name from SAPNA CHOUHAN to SAPNA JAIN in passport. Henceforth I will be known as **SAPNA JAIN** for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 16.06.2023 before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. RINGU BHAVAN PATEL**, aged about 24 years, W/o Sri Mayur M Patel, Presently R/at No. 695, Jogmaya Krupa, 5th Main, Opposite to B. Channasandra Graveyard, OMBR Layout, Bhuvanagiri, Bengaluru-560043, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RINGU BHAVAN PATEL** to **DIKSHA M PATEL**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **DIKSHA M PATEL** only, vide affidavit dated 17-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D. GUNA SHEKAR** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **ATUL LAXMIKUMAR JOSHI** and **SARITA ATUL JOSHI**, Parents of ARNAV ATUL JOSHI, R/at C-1004, Sterling Terraces, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Ittamadu Signal, Bangalore-560085, do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **ARNAV JOSHI** to **ARNAV ATUL JOSHI**, henceforth he shall be known and called as **ARNAV ATUL JOSHI** only, vide affidavit dated 16-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.K.R. KRISHNAMURTHY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, J POONDI MARY Spouse of No. 2591797 K Ex Havilder HARRY MECHIOR S Residing at No 242, 'D' Block, CHAMPION REEFS, K G F PIN – 563117 have changed my name from **J POONDI MARY** to **POONDI MARY J** vide affidavit dated 14/06/2023 before Notary Thangaraj S, Kolar Distt.

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, K.M. GIRISH & Smt. K. DHIVYA GIRISH, R/a No. 19, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Cross, J.C.Nagar, Mahalakshmi puram, Bangalore-560086, have changed our Daughter's name from **G.ABHIGNA** to **ABHIGNA GIRISH.** Vide affidavit Dated 13/06/2023 sworn before Notary Vanajakshi.R., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mrs. KALYANI KRIHSNA W/o S.V. KRIHSNA, (Aadhar No. 5055 3719 2227, Pass Port No. E-415940), Residing at Flat No.601, F Block, HMT Main Road, Jalvayu Heights Apartment, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013., have changed my name from **KALYANI** to **KALYANI KRIHSNA,** vide affidavit dated 17/6/2023 sworn to before Rajeshwari advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Devendra Sharma, S/o. Thimmanabhatta, R/at No 264, 1st C Main, Near Nanjundeshwara Bekary, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore 560060, Karnataka, India. I have changed my name from **'DEVENDRA SHARMA HOSABALE THIMMANABHATTA'** to **'DEVENDRA SHARMA'** Sworn before H S Sakalesh Aradhya, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore, Vide affidavit dated 17.06.2023.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **N GOVIND RAJU** S/o Nanjappa Age about 47 years. R/at No. 117, Srirama Temple Street, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092, Karnataka India. Changed my daughter name from **G. MILINA SHETTY** to **G. SAMUDYATA SHETTY** vide affidavit dated 15/6/2023 sworn before notary L.B. Anasuyamma, Reg No. 12428, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as Veerendra Kumar Shankarayya Hiremath Son of Shankarayya Veerabhadrayya Hiremath resident of No 7186 Sobha Forest View 100 Ff Road OFF Kanakapura Road Thalaghattapura Bangalore, Karnataka-560109. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **VEERENDRA HIREMATH** for all purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 16.06.2023 before Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KARUNAKARA N BILLAVA**, aged about 34 years, S/o Narayana Venkata Billava, R/of No. 1-84/B, Padmavathi Nilaya, Chuttihar House, Padukone, Hadavu, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District-576235, today camped at Bangalore, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KARUNAKARA** to **KARUNAKARA N BILLAVA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **KARUNAKARA N BILLAVA** only, vide affidavit dated 17-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LAKSHMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **SHIVAKUMAR CHIKKALAGOUDAR**, and **ROOPA PATIL**, Both are Residing at No.30, Mathrushree Nilaya, 4th-A-Cross, Brundavan Layout, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru South, Subramanya Pura Post, Bengaluru-560061, KARNATAKA, declare that we have changed the name of our Minor Daughter from **SHRADDHA.S.C.** (Old Name) to **SANCHITA. S. CHIKKALAGOUDAR** (New Name), henceforth our Daughter shall be known and called as **SANCHITA. S. CHIKKALAGOUDAR** (New Name) for all her personal, educational, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 12/06/2023 before Notary **N. NARAYANA SWAMY** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, H M MARIALILLYPUSHPAM Daughter of NO 2591797 K Ex Havilder HARRY MECHIOR S Residing at No 242, 'D' Block, CHAMPION REEFS, K G F PIN – 563117 have changed my name from **H M MARIALILLYPUSHPAM** to **MARIALILLYPUSHPAM H** vide affidavit dated 14/06/2023 before Notary Thangaraj S , Kolar Distt.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vishwakarma Chauhan son of Mushi Chauhan, aged about 44 years, residing at no. 78/6, 17th B cross, Shivapura, Peenya Small industries, Bengaluru North, have changed my minor child name from **Ausumith Kumar** to **Sumith Kumar Chauhan,** vide affidavit dated 16/6/2023 sworn to before T.C.Thimmaraja advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vishwakarma Chauhan son of Mushi Chauhan, aged about 44 years, residing at no. 78/6, 17th B cross, Shivapura, Peenya Small industries, Bengaluru North, have changed my minor child name from **Ajith Kumar C** to **Ajith Kumar Chauhan,** vide affidavit dated 16/6/2023 sworn to before T.C.Thimmaraja advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DILEEP**, S/o Ganga Ram R/o No.502, 5th Floor, Thirumala Apartment, Doddamuniswamy Reddy Layout, Margondanhalli TC Palya, Bangalore - 560036 have permanently changed my name from **DILEEP** to **DILEEP SARAN** vide affidavit dated 17/06/2023, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AKHIL H MHALATHKAR** S/o Harikumar N Mhalathkar, R/a. No. #150, "H" Block, SLS Summer Fields, 11th Main, AECS Layout, A Block, Singasandra, Bangalore-560068, I have change my name from **Akhil Anand Harikumar** to **AKHIL H MHALATHKAR** Vide affidavit Date: 07.06.2023. Sworn before Notary : B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VENKAMMA DEEPTHI,** aged about 30 years, W/o Raja R, D/o. Anjaneya Bassappa, resident of No.57, Girija Radhakrishna Nilaya, Opp A R Farm, Shanuboganahalli, Bannerughatta, Bengaluru- 560 083, have changed my name from **DEEPTHI ANJANEYA @ DEEPTHI A** to **VENKAMMA DEEPTHI** vide affidavit Dated 17/06/2023 sworn before Advocate & Notary Public, **Ravikumar V,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SARITA ATUL JOSHI,** W/o Atul Laxmikumar Joshi, aged about 43 years, R/at C-1004, Sterling Terraces, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Ittamadu Signal, Bangalore-560085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SARITA JOSHI** to **SARITA ATUL JOSHI,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SARITA ATUL JOSHI** only, vide affidavit dated 16-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.K.R. KRISHNAMURTHY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) KANZIY ZAHEERA, residing at No. 13, Ali Manzil, 5th 'A' Cross, Bhoopasandra, New Extension, Bangalore-560094, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) KANZIY ZAHEERA** to **(NEW NAME) KINZAY ZAHERA** vide affidavit Dated 17/06/2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIBHA, D/o Jayarama H. Aged about 25 years, residing at No. 667, 17th Main, 27th Cross, Judicial Layout, GKVK Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560065, have changed my name from **VIBHA** to **VIBHA BOMMAREDDY,** vide affidavit dated 14/6/2023 sworn to before S.R. Ravikumar advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mrs.B.N.Kamalamma, aged about 76 years, W/o. Late B.M.Ananda, resident of No.33, Cauvery, Anand Nagar, Facing Outer Ring Road, Near Kalamandir, Marathahalli, Bangalore 560037, (Karnataka), India, I state that both the names **'B.N.Kamalamma'** and **'B.N.Kamala'** are of one and the same person i.e. myself. Sworn before Indira S.S, Advocate & Notary, Vide affidavit dated 16.06.2023.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUGANIYA Daughter of **No. 15763402L Rank: Ex-NAIK, Name: PANJASARAM M** Residing at No. 35, Sivanna Garden, old Baiyyappanahalli, M.S.Nagar Post, Bangalore-560033 have changed my name from **SUGANIYA** to **SUGANYA P** vide Affidavit Dated 17-06-2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary B. Seshagiri, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHARMILA SUBHASH KAMAT, aged 39 years, D/o. Subhash Narayan Kamat residing at No.700 / 2A, Venkatappa Reddy Layout, 4th 'A' Main, Konena Agrahara, Near Nagendra Temple, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore North, Vimanapura, Karnataka-560017, have changed my name from **SHARMILA** to **SHARMILA SUBHASH KAMAT,** Vide affidavit sworn before Notary, C.V.Earappa, Bangalore, Dated 17-06-2023.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **ATUL LAXMIKUMAR JOSHI** and **SARITA ATUL JOSHI,** Parents of ARYA ATUL JOSHI, R/at C-1004, Sterling Terraces, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Ittamadu Signal, Bangalore-560085, do hereby declare that we have changed our daughter's name from **ARYA JOSHI** to **ARYA ATUL JOSHI,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **ARYA ATUL JOSHI** only, vide affidavit dated 16-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.K.R. KRISHNAMURTHY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MEGHNA DAS,** D/o Late Sri Anand Kumar, aged 47 years, R/at No. 450, 2nd 'A' Cross, 17th D Main, KHB Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560095, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MEGHNA ANAND** to **MEGHNA DAS,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MEGHNA DAS** only, vide affidavit dated 15-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MEER HASSAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, K.M. GIRISH & Smt. K. DHIVYA GIRISH, R/a No. 19, 3rd Main Road, 2nd Cross, J.C.Nagar, Mahalakshmi puram, Bangalore-560086, have changed our Daughter's name from **G.ADVITHA** to **ADVITHA GIRISH.** Vide affidavit Dated 13/06/2023 sworn before Notary Vanajakshi.R., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DAKSHAYANI. G, D/o Ganesh. K. B, aged about 48 years, (Date of Birth: 09.07.1975) residing at # B-1304, B Block, Century Indus Apartment, K.H. Road, R.R. Nagar, Bengaluru-560 098, have changed my name from **DAKSHAYINI.G** to **DAKSHAYANI.G,** vide affidavit dated 17/6/2023 sworn to before B. Prasanna advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sumathi Tenepalli, W/O. Mr.P.N. Manohar Reddy, aged about 58 years, residing at #14, Sukashaya 2nd B Cross, Railway Track, Sapthagiri Layout, Munnekolala, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560037, Karnataka, I have changed my name from **'SUMATHI TENEPALLI'** to **'SUMATHI T'** in my minor daughter's school records. Sworn before Indira S.S, Advocate & Notary Bangalore, Vide affidavit Dated 17.06.2023

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TABASSUM TAJ D/o. Abdul Zameer W/o. Ilyas Khan. R/a #40/3A-1, 1st main, 1st cross, New Gurappanapalya, Dharmaram College, Bangalore- 560029 Declare that in my passport bearing No. L2724389 Name of the Father i.e. my Father Name is wrongly mentioned as **ABDUL ZAMER** instead of **ABDUL ZAMEER** vide Affidavit dated 07.06.2023 Before Notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, Bangalore

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Akshitha Sathyanarayana rides her way into the tinsel world with *Racer*

CE FEATURES

MODEL-turned-actor Akshitha Sathyanarayana is set to make her debut in Kannada cinema. She will star in Bharat Vishnukant's *Racer,* which features her in the role of a biker. Based on a true incident about bike racing, 35 per cent of the shooting has been wrapped up. The team recently unveiled a motion poster featuring Akshitha Sathyanarayana.

In an interview with *CE*, Akshitha reveals that she has the basics of bike riding thanks to her father who taught her the necessary skills at a very young age. "My background as an NCC cadet and athlete has also aided me in developing a knack for bike riding. However, the film requires me to ride a superbike, so I am currently learning to feel comfortable with these high-end bikes before commencing the shoot in July," says Akshitha, who is happy to be chosen through auditions. "The team had called for casting, and I took the initiative to submit my portfolio, highlighting my bike riding skills along with acting videos, which caught the team's attention," she reveals. Akshitha expresses her long-standing dream of pursuing acting and her enthusiasm for experimenting with diverse roles. "I particularly enjoy and would love to portray mythological characters," she adds.

The filming of the heroine's portions and songs will resume in the next schedule, which is set to commence in July. Bharath Vishnukant, who is also bankrolling the project under the Bharat Films banner, has assembled a cast including Sandesh Prasanna, Yash Shetty, Cockroach Sudhi, Bala Rajwadi, *Comedy Khiladi* Sooraj, Swati, and many others. Additionally, the team has approached two notable stars from Malayalam and Kannada cinema to play significant roles in the movie. *Racer* has Arjun Janya as the music composer and Mysore Swamy as the cinematographer.

A still from the film

Akshitha Sathyanarayana

My background as an NCC cadet and athlete has also aided me in developing a knack for bike ridingary – Akshitha Satyanarayan, actor

'I WANT TO PLAY CHARACTERS THAT I CANNOT BE IN REAL LIFE'

...says Sindhu Loknath, while discussing her upcoming film *Devara Aata Ballavararu*, reveals why she chose to be part of a film that aims to set a Guinness record by completing shooting and releasing within a span of 30 days

A SHARADHAA

ACTOR Sindhu Loknath, along with the team of *Devara Aata Ballavararu*, is embarking on an exciting experiment. Directed by Janardhana P Johnny, known for his work in Sanchari Vijay's *Pirangi Pura,* the film aims to create a Guinness record. Arjun Ramesh, transitioning from teleserials to cinema, will be part of the cast and crew as they prepare to shoot and release the film within just 30 days.

Sindhu Loknath shares her thoughts on this new challenge. "I never went anywhere to make a comeback. I had two film releases during the first and second waves of the pandemic. However, after these two films, I didn't find the right scripts that I wanted to be a part of. The discussions with the makers of *Devara Aata Ballavararu* have been ongoing since last year, and finally, we are ready to go on floors," says Sindhu, whose role in the film has three different shades, and posed a unique challenge to her. "The director has come up with a unique plot — a retro theme, based on a true incident that occurred in our country in 1975 — which had a significant impact on the public. Secondly, my character has Tourette's syndrome. The director showed me many videos, which gave me an idea as to what was expected of that role. I have been rehearsing for the past three months. On set, we will have seven cameras capturing the scenes. All of this is extremely exciting to me. It's like preparing for a skit, where we prepare for the entire scene and then bring spontaneity to it," she explains.

The makers are planning to start shooting on June 23 in Madikeri. The shooting, editing, DI, and background music will all take place in the same location. "We plan to complete the shoot in 12-16 days and finish post-production, sticking to our planned release date of July 23. I am thrilled to be a part of this roller-coaster ride, which is one of the reasons I chose this project," she says.

Talking about her script choices, Sindhu shares that she never wanted to be a typical heroine. "I want to be addressed as an actor and not just another heroine. I don't want to be bubbly, deliver dialogues, and dance well just to gain a fan following. It is not my cup of tea. I truly want to play characters that I cannot be in real life. I had a strategy from the beginning of my career not to take up roles that don't connect with me, just for the sake of money. I have been asked many times why I haven't been seen in many films. The only reason is that I didn't like any of the scripts presented to me recently. For example, after *Love in Mandya*, I was offered a series of films in the same genre, and they wanted me to play a village belle, which I refused. In every film, I want to be seen as a different person in a different character," she signs off.

Sindhu Loknath

A PROMISING DEBUT HINDERED BY PREDICTABILITY

A SHARADHAA

Karthik Jayaram, popularly known as JK, known for his role in the serial *Ashwini Nakshatra*, also garnered acclaim for portraying Raavana in a Hindi serial. The actor, who has worked in several films, however, has been away from the Kannada industry for a long time, and the actor revealed that he is all set to bid goodbye to the cinema world with *IRavan*. Will this be a good end to his career?

IRavan alludes to a mythological character and marks the debut of Rams Ranga. The film begins as a suspenseful thriller, revolving around three murders intertwined with the medical mafia. The story kicks off with a group of thugs chasing a nurse who holds vital information about a murder. Desperate to obtain the evidence, the goons demand she hands it over, but she adamantly refuses, leading to her tragic demise.

In a parallel narrative, the director presents a flashback scene elucidating how Ratnakar (Krishna Hebbale), the owner of an orphanage, gets elected as a legislator. Dr. Sathyamurthy (Avinash), a cardiologist affiliated with a renowned hospital, has a son named Vikram (Vivek) and a daughter. Meanwhile, Mithun Chakravarthy, alias MC (Karthik Jayaram), has amassed an empire through illicit means. The latter sets his sights on the orphanage, exploiting the vulnerable orphans for his sinister agenda. He also engages in the illicit distribution of substandard drugs to various hospitals for financial gain. When Rathnakar refuses to sell the orphanage, MC eliminates him. In the ensuing chaos, he also murders Dr. Sathyamurthy to destroy evidence. However, Vikram, who has been studying abroad, returns and exposes MC, the seemingly philanthropic CEO of a corporate company, unveiling his true malevolent nature. Unraveling the mysteries behind Vikram's true identity, the orphanage tragedy, and the murder of MLA Ratnakar form the crux of the movie *IRavan*. *IRavan* starts on a promising note; however, Rams Ranga fails to maintain the momentum, and the plot becomes very predictable. It is disappointing that a young director resorts to old-school ways of filmmaking, acting, and narration, which at times hinders the ability to keep the audience engaged.

Had the director exercised restraint in a couple of action scenes, particularly the one where Jayaram Karthik confronts the beggar mafia, the movie would have achieved a certain level of excellence. All eyes were on JK, who portrays a distinct role and takes on a character with a negative shade, especially excelling in action sequences. However, his dialogue delivery could have been stronger. *IRavan* marks Vivek's debut as an actor, and he exhibits a promising start. Adhvithi Shetty showcases beauty and talent, particularly in the song sequences. The film has its shortcomings, but it still makes for a one-time watch, especially to witness JK's final performance.

IRAVAN
Director: Rams Ranga
Cast: Jayaram Karthik, Vivek, Adhvithi Shetty, Avinash, and Krishna Hebbale

RATING 2.5/5

Adipurush makers to rework dialogues of the film

CE FEATURES

AFTER receiving severe criticism over the dialogues of *Adipurush*, its co-writer Manoj Muntashir has now announced that the makers have decided to rewrite some of the film's lines which have "hurt the sentiments" of viewers. After the release of the film, social media was rife with disapproval against some of the film's dialogues, chief one being the interaction between Rama's dutiful companion Bajrang and Ravana's son Meghnad. During the Lanka Dahan (The burning of Lanka) scene, Meghnad lights up Bajrang's tail and asks him "*Jali na.. Abhi to aur jalegi. Jiski jalti hai wahi janta hai*," to which Bajrang replies, "*Kapda tere baap ka. Tel tere baap ka. Aag bhi tere baap ki. Toh jalegi bhi tere baap ki*."

In a long post on Twitter in Hindi, Manoj expressed his displeasure over the criticism being received. "I wrote over 4000 dialogues for the film, out of which five lines have offended some. In those thousands of lines, I praised Lord Rama, I described the woes of Sita... I deserve praise for them, I don't know why I didn't get it."

"....Maybe in this three-hour film, I had written scenes of not more than three minutes which were different than your imagination. Why were you so quick to write 'Sanatan vidrohi' on my forehead? I didn't understand," he added.

Further stating that he has no qualms with the audience and he respects their sentiments, Manoj said that the makers and him have decided to rewrite some of the dialogues of the film. "For me, there is nothing above your (the audience's) sentiments. I can give arguments in favour of my dialogues but that won't reduce your pain. Me and the film's producer-director have decided to rewrite the dialogues which have offended you, they will be part of the film this week itself."

Directed by Om Raut, *Adipurush* was also criticised for its VFX. The film stars Prabhas, Kriti Sanon, Saif Ali Khan and Sunny Singh.

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